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THE CIRCLE

"The Center of Our Universe"

by Ernestine Bradford Rose



INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INDIANAPOLIS

1957

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INDIANA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PUBLICATIONS

VOLUME 18

NUMBER 4



THE CENTER OF OUR UNIVERSE

Bass photo

THE CIRCLE

“The Center of Our Universe”

by Ernestine Bradford Rose



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*To the
Indianapolis Woman's Club*

PREFACE

This story of Monument Circle is the enlargement of a paper read before the Indianapolis Woman's Club on February 18, 1955, on the club's eightieth birthday. The families of many of the early citizens of Indianapolis engaged in activities which centered on the Circle—in the churches, schools, newspapers, businesses—were represented in the membership of the Indianapolis Woman's Club. Mary Talbot Morrison, who served for several years as secretary of the club, was living on the circle when she joined in 1881, and continued to live there until 1888. Some club meetings were held in the old Plymouth Church, the south wall of which became part of the English Hotel. Present-day members of the club contributed to the cost of the illustrations which enhance and clarify the text, and have added many bits of historical data for which I am very grateful.

Although brought up on stories about early days of Indianapolis, especially about the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, because a member of my family was secretary of the first Board of Commissioners for the Monument, I first chose the Circle as a subject for a paper because I realized how many aspects of its past were unfamiliar. This study is not exhaustive. A list of property owners and persons who worked or lived on the Circle would be endless and dull. The purpose of this story is merely to trace the history of the "center of our universe" by recalling some of the institutions that were located there and interesting events and outstanding personalities that have made up its past. In writing a history such as this an author runs into many contradictions, discrepancies, and differences of opinion. Sincere effort has been made to resolve these differences and to verify stories and reminiscences by referring to deeds and other source materials. But in some cases no conclusion was possible.

It is my hope that this account will bring back to many of

its readers a host of memories, and remind them of oft-repeated stories they have heard.

I wish to acknowledge the help of the staffs of the Reference Department of the Indianapolis Public Library, the Indiana Division of the Indiana State Library, and of the Indiana Historical Society, especially of the Society's editor.

For information on specific subjects I want to express my appreciation to Fred A. Thomas of New York City, nephew of Fanny Vandegrift, for information about the Vandegrift family; the Solomon Claypool family for reports of the Monument Commission; Professor Albert Mock, for studies on early schools; Evelyn Sickels, great-great-granddaughter of Isaac Coe, for family papers; Helen Kolthoff, daughter of Rudolf Schwarz, for information about her father; Mrs. H. H. Hornbrook for use of her paper on the Meridian Street Methodist Church (Wesley Chapel); Mrs. Guy Chester Smith, Detroit, for information and papers about Charles and Abby Cady; and Dr. and Mrs. Jean S. Milner for material on Henry Ward Beecher.

Miss Gertrude Nichols of the Brown Abstract Company traced the titles to the lots on the Circle for me.

For other information and help I wish to thank Lawrence A. Arany, Glenn A. Black, Hilton U. Brown, Fermor Cannon, Mrs. Hugh H. Hanna, Irving Fauvre, John Kleinhenz, Louis Koss, Mrs. Frederic Krull, Mrs. Charles Latham, Eli Lilly, Mrs. Henrietta Kothe Matkin, Edward D. Pierre, George Rose, John Rugenstein, Anna Spann, William Steinsberger, Mrs. William M. Taylor, Mrs. Clifford Wagoner, and Josephine Williams, all of Indianapolis, and Dick Wessel of Centerville.

ERNESTINE BRADFORD ROSE

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THE CIRCLE'S BEGINNINGS

DO YOU REMEMBER the old riddle of our childhood, "Why is Indianapolis like a doughnut?" The answer is easy, "Because its center is a circle."

How does its center happen to be a circle? The answer can be traced to one man, Alexander Ralston. But before we come to him, we have to go back to the year 1820 and an action of the Indiana General Assembly. The Assembly, then meeting in Corydon, appointed a group of ten commissioners to select a site for the permanent capital of the young state of Indiana. The Federal Enabling Act under which Indiana entered the Union in 1816 donated four sections of land for the capital to be located on lands acquired by the United States from the Indians. After careful consideration of many suggested sites in the New Purchase, extending thirty or forty miles along White River, the commissioners agreed upon a location as near the center of the state as practicable, on the east bank of the west fork of the river, where Fall Creek at that time entered White River. (The present mouth of Fall Creek was not made until 1875, when a new channel was cut.)

The site was described as being "in an eminent degree beautiful and fertile and probably the best body of land in the State." Ignatius Brown, Indianapolis' first historian, says that "the location gave the place instant reputation" and brought settlers to it at once.

The town-to-be had no name. Among the many suggestions rejected by the legislature were "Tecumseh" and "Suwar-row." It was Judge Jeremiah Sullivan, a member of the legislature and later a judge of the state Supreme Court, who suggested the name "Indianapolis." In a letter written to Governor Conrad Baker many years later, Judge Sullivan tells that he presented the name to Governor Jennings who liked it and promised to back it. When Sullivan proposed it to the legislature, it was received with a laugh, but Samuel Merrill

seconded the proposal, and when it came to a vote, not a dissenting voice was heard. Newspapers carried stories ridiculing the name, but it was not long before people began to like it. Judge Sullivan said of it, "It is a good name and likely to be known as that of the largest city in the Union."

After the legislature had confirmed the choice of location, it appointed three commissioners to take charge of laying out the town. They were Christopher Harrison, James Jones, and Samuel P. Booker. To Harrison belongs the credit for the real work of the commission.

Harrison was a native of Maryland. There is a legend that he came to Indiana because he fell hopelessly in love with Betsy Patterson, who was destined to marry Jerome Bonaparte. Whether the story was true or not, Harrison was closely affiliated with the Patterson family and tutored the beautiful Betsy. He was a "man of fine education and cultured tastes," doubtless equipped to take the responsibility of planning the new capital.

Harrison appointed Elias P. Fordham and Alexander Ralston surveyors. It was the latter who designed the plat, and it was he who planned the Circle. Ralston, a young Scotsman, had helped Pierre L'Enfant lay out the City of Washington. Ralston had continued on the surveying staff for the nation's capital until 1794, two years after L'Enfant had been relieved of his duties by President Washington. He then went to Kentucky where he was employed by Aaron Burr who was engaged in his nebulous and ill-fated scheme of empire. Probably Ralston's only connection with the "conspiracy" was serving as surveyor for some of Burr's land on the Washita River in Arkansas. Ralston was a citizen of Indiana as early as 1814 and was living in Salem when his fellow townsman Christopher Harrison selected him to plan the City of Indianapolis. After this task was finished, Ralston continued to live in the new town until his death in 1827.¹

¹ Alexander Ralston was buried in the old Greenlawn Cemetery. In 1874 his body was removed to Crown Hill Cemetery, where his grave remained unmarked until 1937 when a committee of the Indianapolis

In laying out the City of Washington L'Enfant had been influenced by the stately symmetry of Versailles, and Ralston in turn was influenced by the plan of Washington in laying out Indianapolis in 1821. The entire plat was to be a mile square laid off in the center of the four donation sections. The square was divided by nine north and south streets and nine east and west streets, all ninety feet wide. The four central blocks of the city, taken together, were called the "Governor's square," and at their center on a slightly raised knoll was marked off a circle more than three acres in extent, surrounded by a street eighty feet wide, which Ralston designated as the site for the Governor's residence. Diagonally from the Governor's square he laid out four avenues—Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, and Massachusetts—as they are today. North, South, East, and West streets were not so marked in the original survey, but were suggested later by James Blake who thought that "they would make a pleasant four mile drive around the city in 50 years or so."

When the plat was completed, Ralston remarked that "it would be a beautiful city if it was ever built." His plan showed great foresight. It is amazing that anyone should have planned streets eighty and ninety feet wide for the little village that had to be cut out of a wilderness. For the mile square in 1821 was still almost unbroken forest. There were but few cabins within miles. Trees had to be felled and underbrush cut away in order to make even passable roadways, bearing no resemblance to Ralston's projected wide, neat streets and avenues. Stumps were left standing, and in the rainy season mud was so deep that horses mired. There is a story of a traveler from Ohio who was asked by a native, "Have you been through the state?" "Indeed I have," was the reply. "Many times I've thought I'd go clear through."

Weather conditions added to the difficulties of pioneer life. During the early autumn months, the rains were heavy.

Teachers' Federation raised money to erect a suitable marker. Emmett A. Rice, "A Forgotten Man of Indianapolis," in *Indiana Magazine of History*, XXXIV (1938), 283-97.

The dense underbrush combined with the moisture caused decaying vegetation. One can imagine many mosquitoes and other insects in the lowlands. All this brought on an epidemic of illness—chills and fever, a kind of malaria. The first cold weather helped to stamp out the disease, but the first winter was bitterly cold and White River was frozen so solid that a team of oxen could be driven across. There was intense suffering. During the rest of the year, however, the weather was mild. Food was plentiful. There was an abundance of fish and wild game, especially deer. Squirrels were so numerous that they became a pest.

To the little community around the maple grove that was the Circle in 1822 new settlers came with astonishing rapidity. The reasons for its rapid growth were probably the fertility of the soil and temperate climate, its central location, and the beauty of the land. Also, contrary to the oft-repeated stories of the illiteracy of Indiana's pioneers, there were many of our early residents with a background of good family and education, some of them college trained.

The forty cabins in the donation in 1822 had increased to one hundred by 1825. The Circle from the beginning seems to have been a center of community activity. One historian recorded that "John McClung, a new light minister, came in the Spring of 1821, and preached the first sermon here shortly after, in the grove on the circle, the audience sitting around him on the grass and on logs in Indian style. Services continued there during the Summer and Fall whenever the weather permitted." Whether this was actually the first sermon preached in the settlement is open to question. The Reverend Resin Hammond, a Methodist from Charlestown, may have preached here on the site of the State House as early as 1819. There is a plaque in the State House commemorating this event. An early resident, Nathaniel Bolton, related that in the spring of 1822 he first took his seat "in this church of nature, dedicated to the living God" on the Circle, to hear the Reverend John McClung. Calvin Fletcher, who came to

Indianapolis in September, 1821, was a faithful diarist. He recorded that the Reverend David Proctor, a Presbyterian minister, preached a sermon on the Circle on May 12, 1822.

Also in 1822 a market house was built in the center of the Circle. The local *Gazette* advertised that market would be held there every Saturday where Wilkes Reagan would sell for three cents a dozen eggs and a side of venison for twenty-five cents. The market lasted until 1824.

The following story, related by an early resident to Henry Ward Beecher, tells what happened to the maple grove that was in the center of the Circle. "A large circle of nearly four acres was reserved in the center of the town and the native trees, sugar maples, left standing upon it. Under these trees, before churches were built religious meetings were held in the summer, and the prospect was that our town would have an adornment of this little grove which no architect can bestow. One morning, however, I was attracted thither by the sound of an axe, and found one of the leading lawyers exercising himself, as a preparation for breakfast, by felling one of the largest trees. It was too far cut to be saved. And so good an example could not be lost upon others. One by one these magnificent trees disappeared." There were so many trees then that they were generally regarded only as a source of firewood or as obstacles to be removed in the course of progress. In 1827 the Assembly made provision for using the Circle for the purpose intended in the plan for the capital.

THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

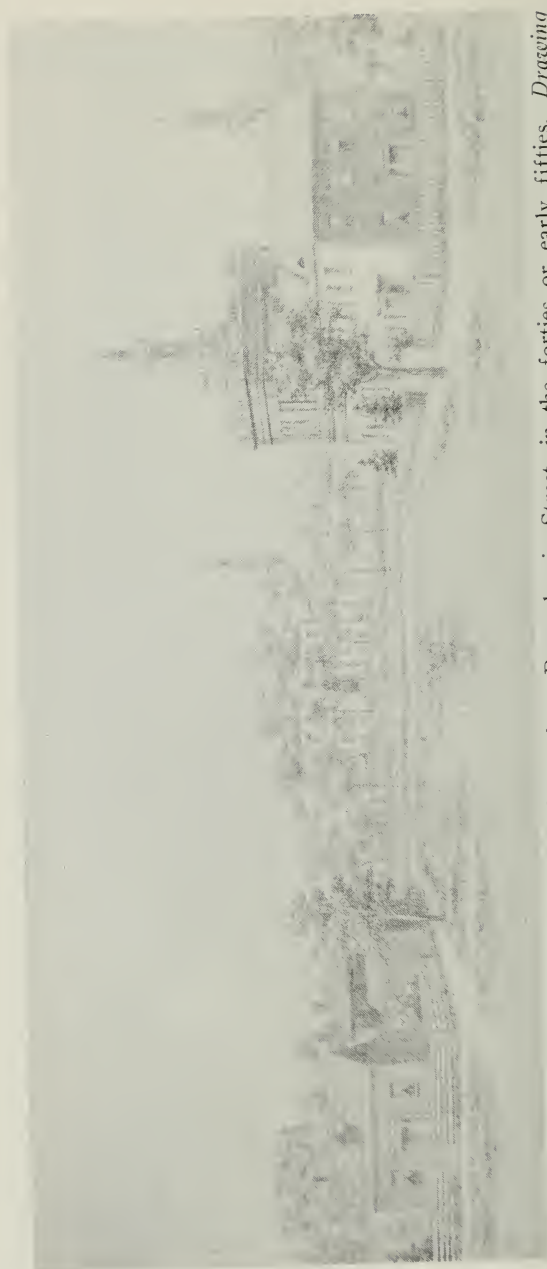
THE CIRCLE was known from its beginning as Governor's Circle because, according to Alexander Ralston's plan, the Governor's Mansion was to be erected there. He had conceived a town that existed primarily as the capital of a state rather than a flourishing community that was also a state capital. Indianapolis did not become the working capital of the state until the fall of 1824, when the state property—such as it was—was transported by wagon from Corydon. The first legislature assembled in the just completed Marion County Courthouse in January, 1825. Two years later the Assembly voted \$4,000 to erect a house for the Governor on the Circle, and Samuel Merrill and Benjamin I. Blythe were appointed to contract for its construction. Built by the firm of William Smith, Robert Culbertson, Austin Bishop, and William Speaks, its final cost was approximately \$6,500.

The house which faced south was a large square two-story brick building with a mansard roof which had a railed level space on top like a New England "widow's walk," "intended as a pleasant place to sit in the cool of the evening and overlook the town." Henry Ward Beecher supplies the fact that it was yellow brick, the only reference found describing its color. The first floor was six feet above the ground. Broad flights of steps on each side led to entrances on the main floor. The house was completely surrounded by a rail fence. The structure was imposing.

The interior was poorly planned for home living. Each floor was cut into four large rooms by two broad halls which crossed in the center. The walls had sliding panels so that the four rooms could be thrown into one large hall for festive occasions. There was no kitchen. The rooms were draughty and the basement which was under the whole house was dark and damp. At the time it was completed, James Brown Ray was governor and the story goes that when his wife was shown



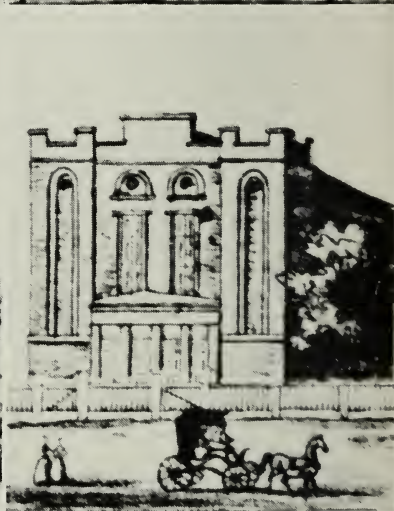
THE CIRCLE. From left to right: The Governor's Mansion, spire of the Second Presbyterian Church, Mariou Fire Engine House, Christ Church and rectory, Dr. Coe's house, and First Presbyterian Church. Actually the rectory was built shortly after the Engine House burned. *Drawing by Christian Schrader.*



THE CIRCLE, looking west on Market Street from Pennsylvania Street, in the forties or early fifties. *Drawing by Christian Schrader.*



THE CIRCLE, looking east on Market Street from Illinois Street, in the forties or early fifties. *Drawing by Christian Schrader.*



Above: CHRIST CHURCH, 1837-1857.
First edifice.

Below: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, 1843-1866.

Above: SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, 1840-1867.

Below: WESLEY CHAPEL,
1846-1868.

Drawings by Christian Schrader

what was to be her home, she flatly refused to live there, saying that every family in town would be able to inspect her washing on Monday morning. Even the enticements of a beautiful yard and garden and a stable across the street could not mollify her. So neither the Rays nor any other governor's family ever lived there.

Although never used for the home of the governor as originally planned, the mansion housed a variety of other tenants. In 1829 it was proposed in the Assembly to add wings to the east and west ends and use the building for a statehouse. But this was voted down. Supreme Court judges had offices in it. The State Library, of which William W. Wick was first librarian, was housed there until its own quarters were ready. The State Bank, known as "The Mother Bank" with Samuel Merrill as president and Calvin Fletcher, Seton W. Norris, Robert Morrison, and Thomas R. Scott as directors, and James M. Ray as cashier, began business in the mansion in 1834 and remained there until it moved to temporary quarters on Washington Street. Its own house was completed at Illinois Street and Kentucky Avenue in 1840.

There was even at one time a kindergarten, described as "an infant school," in the basement.

One of Indiana's most distinguished judges and jurists, Isaac Blackford, lived alone in quarters in the mansion while he served as judge of the Supreme Court. His young wife had died at the birth of their son. The child, to whom Blackford was devoted, died when very young. Thereafter the father lived a solitary existence with his work and books, and a faithful colored man to care for him. He is best remembered for the eight volumes of Blackford's *Reports*, those excellent summaries of cases that were brought before Indiana's Supreme Court between 1817 and 1847.

There is a story which may or may not be true that the Reverend John Strange died in the Governor's Mansion. This Methodist preacher was probably the outstanding orator of all the early Methodists who preached in Indianapolis in the early years. His utter devotion to his Master's cause was renowned.

The story is that he refused to accept as a present from a friend a house and lot, because if he did, he could no longer sing

“No foot of land do I possess,
No cottage in the wilderness.”

This may be the reason that his last hours were in the big house on the Circle.

There were quite a few important social events held in the house. Inaugural balls for the governors were given there. The first fair given by a ladies' missionary society in the town was held there on New Year's eve in 1836. The ladies raised the sum of \$230. Such fairs were held there frequently thereafter. On the Fourth of July in 1837 the celebration was climaxed with a military reception and ball in "the Governor's Circle building." Austin H. Brown describes a Washington's birthday anniversary ball in 1838, "attended by all the dancing people of the town and by many spectators." The invitations read: "The managers of the anniversary ball request the pleasure of your attendance on Tuesday evening, February 22, 1838, at the Governor's circle, at 5 o'clock." It was signed by Isaac Blackford, David Cox, John Bobbs, John Livingston, Thomas A. Morris, E. K. Foster, W. W. Wick, W. W. McCoy, H. W. Ellsworth, S. D. Tomlinson, V. C. Hanna, and N. West, Jr.

Seldom has one house had such a variety of uses. Mrs. James Blake even recalled that fashionable young people played battledore and shuttlecock in its halls. Fanny Vandegrift, later Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson, is reputed to have played in the house with her six sisters and brothers. In 1848 twenty physicians formed a group known as the "Indianapolis Medical Society" which met in the Governor's Mansion once a week. Its officers were John H. Sanders, president, Livingston Dunlap, vice-president, John S. Bobbs, secretary, Talbott Bullard, corresponding secretary, John L. Mothershead, treasurer. This is the society that issued the call for the State Medical Convention which, meeting at Wesley Chapel on June

6, 1849, led to the organization of the State Medical Society.

Gradually the house began to deteriorate. It was no longer the popular place for balls and other social gatherings, lectures, and meetings. Tramps slept in the deserted rooms. It is said that the dark basement was "a source of terror to small boys who fully credited the legend that the rooms were tenanted by a headless ghost whose appetite for youngsters was insatiable." There was a story about a giant who thumped about the house at night. One day an especially daring youth—identified as Aaron D. Ohr—captured the giant. It was a wild turkey!

The Indianapolis *Daily Journal* deplored the sad state into which the center of the city had fallen. On August 5, 1851, it stated, "The Governor's Circle, in its present and shabby condition, is an 'eyesore' to our city instead of a 'beauty spot' as it should be. . . . On passing it this morning, we observed that the grass was trodden, the fence rickety, the trees ragged, the ground covered with ugly shrubbery, sticks, stones, old shoes. . . .

"We hope at no distant day to see the present dilapidated building superceded by a magnificent structure for the accommodation of the United States Officers, and such others as it can accommodate, or the Circle converted by the beautifying hand of improvement into a Park with all its refreshing concomitants of luxuriant grass, tastefully trimmed shrubs, handsome and shady trees, and perhaps fountains and statues the whole surrounded by a tasteful iron railing." The next day the *Journal* suggested: "If any person is curious to observe the abuse of the above premises, let him go past early in the morning and he can see several horses there which have been pastured in that elysian (!) spot overnight. . . ."

Finally the house was ordered demolished. It was sold at auction on April 16, 1857, to David Macy for \$665, and part of the material was used in building the Macy House, a hotel on the southeast corner of Illinois and Market streets.

CIRCLE PARK IN THE SIXTIES

FOR A FEW YEARS after the Governor's Mansion was razed, the center of the Circle became a dirty treeless expanse where cows grazed and pigs explored the rubbish of the damp basement. Some of its untidiness was blamed on neighboring housewives who, in their housecleaning zeal, beat their carpets and emptied straw ticks there, and generally added more refuse to the rubble.

The town had changed fast in the late forties and fifties. The *Indianapolis Journal* observed in January, 1848, that "The early cabins are gone—even frame and brick houses of our fathers are gone. The humble comforts of those early days are fast ripening into munificence and luxury. Improvement has drawn on its seven league boots, and must in the future make many and rapid strides." At the same time it was still a small town—limited in its activities and boundaries. The story is told of an Irish housemaid who refused to move with the family who had employed her to Illinois and Second (now Eleventh) streets because she feared being lonely "so far from the center of the city."

During the Civil War the Circle saw much activity—young men arriving in the capital city to be mustered into service, raw recruits bound for the Union Depot where they would leave for faraway battlefields, Confederate prisoners on their way to Camp Morton, wounded veterans, and above all the ladies and men of the town engaged in their daily affairs plus the added duties and responsibilities brought on by war. The town rejoiced and church bells rang on July 7, 1863, with the victory of Gettysburg. A few days later alarm seized the populace. When it was feared General John Morgan and his raiders might move on the capital, not only was money sent out of town for safekeeping but a cannon was placed on the Circle facing the State House. Among the mass meetings held there, was one which protested Lincoln's administration,

the emancipation of slaves, and Governor Morton's policies.

On Washington's birthday in 1864 a great Union rally was held. That night the town put on an unprecedented illumination. Candles shone from every window, and along Meridian Street and the Circle lights flamed and sparkled, lighting up the rows of Union flags until they glowed.

When news came of Lee's surrender at Appomattox, a number of soldiers were in Indianapolis. Great excitement followed the tidings and the people of the town thronged to the Circle for speeches and singing. The rail fence around the center served as grandstand seats for the cheering crowd. On the twenty-fifth of July, 1866, General Sherman arrived. A great military and civil procession held in his honor passed through the main streets and around the Circle to the State House. In September came General Grant to receive the same honors.

During the war and the years immediately following, the city grew rapidly; new industries were founded, property values rose unbelievably, and the town prospered and grew. For instance, the whole northwest section of the Circle was valued at \$2,000 between 1836 and 1840, and shortly after the Civil War part of it sold for \$83,777. In 1832 there were 1,060 residents; in 1860, 18,611. In 1865 permits were issued for 1,621 buildings to be built for \$2,060,000. Nine miles of streets and eighteen miles of sidewalks were graded and leveled, one mile of street bouldered, four miles of sidewalk paved, and three miles of streets lighted. Such improvements continued. In 1867 the City Council ordered the Governor's Circle graded, fenced, walks laid out, benches placed, and the whole encircled by a sidewalk. Its name was changed to Circle Park. It became an attractive well-kept area enclosed with a rail fence. There were four stiles over the fence at the four street intersections. A story is told by a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Ohr, of an incident that occurred one day when they had gone to the Circle for a promenade in the park. As Mrs. Ohr reached the top of the stile, her hoop skirt caught on the rail fence and was pulled so high that a great expanse

of pantalette was exhibited. "Oh, look! look!" she cried in distress. "Cerene," admonished her husband severely, "you are scarcely in the position to call people's attention to your predicament."

Circle Park was the center of social activity on Sundays. It was ideal for promenading. The Indianapolis *Journal* reported, "Governor's Circle is thronged from 8 A. M. to 12 and from 2:00 until the last ray of the setting sun. Everyone is arrayed in his Sunday best and the Circle with its five churches is the scene of a fashion parade." In 1867 one historian wrote, "Circle Park is annually becoming more beautiful. . . . Handsome residences and imposing business houses are rising around it and making it the center of the most imposing portion of the city."

THE FIRE BOYS

DURING PART OF THE PERIOD that the Governor's Mansion was in the Circle, the home of the Marion Fire Hose and Protection Company stood just north of it, also in the center section, facing North Meridian Street. The first Indianapolis volunteer fire company was organized in 1826. Its only apparatus was a collection of leather buckets and ladders. A town ordinance required every house to keep at least one fire bucket "shaped like a keg holding a half bushel of water." Probably the firemen poured more water over themselves than on the fire. The church bells were used as alarms. William S. Hubbard who lived next door to the Second Presbyterian Church on the Circle, kept a key to the church so that he could sound a fire alarm by ringing the bell in the "pepper-box steeple." There was no general alarm. When a fire broke out, everybody yelled and every bell was rung.

When the new State House was built, it posed a problem because it was too tall for the company's ladders and too valuable to be unprotected. And so the Marion company was organized in 1835 and incorporated in 1838 as the Marion Fire Engine Company. A one-story frame building, 14 by 20 feet, on a brick foundation with a double door on the front, was built in the center section of the Circle, enclosed by a wooden fence. In September, 1835, the first fire engine arrived, looked upon as "a mechanical marvel, a superlative achievement in the field of invention. . . ." It was, in fact, a secondhand end-brake hand engine bought of a Philadelphia firm for \$1,800. The little boys of the town would climb the old board fence to go up to the open door of the Marion Engine House to gaze in awe at the mighty Marion engine. In 1837 the city added a second story to the Engine House which became the office of the city's Common Council.

Caleb Scudder was the first captain of the Marion company. Others who served as captain were James Blake, Berry

Sulgrove, John Coburn, Joseph English, Thomas Buchanan, and Fred Knefler. In the roster of its membership were such names as John H. Wright, James M. Ray, James Blake, Dr. John Mothershead, and William S. Hubbard. "No young man could expect political place, business success or social recognition unless he was a member of a fire company. No public demonstration could hope for success unless it found favor with the fire boys who were the aristocrats of everything in sight." Ministers were exempt from helping in fire fighting, although some of them waived the privilege. There is a story of Henry Ward Beecher at a fire on a winter's day helping "the boys," even though it was so cold that he had icicles in his hair.

In 1841 the Marion company divided, and a new company, the Independent Relief Company, was organized. Its first engine, similar to the Marion, was called the Good Intent. "This company, like the old one," says an Indianapolis historian, "was made up of the best citizens but with rather a larger infusion of 'fast' men than the old one."!! This company acquired a new engine in November, 1849, and the local *Journal* reported on the 5th: "The new engine of the Relief Co. arrived here on last Friday afternoon. Saturday afternoon was devoted by the boys of the 'Relief' and 'Marion' to a trial of the capacity of their respective 'machines' for throwing water. We have not heard which gave in second best, if either. The citizens generally however appeared to be satisfied that each is likely to be very efficient in case of need. . . . If the new engine shall render as good service as 'the Marion' has, there will be no cause for complaint."

In December, 1849, a Fireman's Fair was held on the Circle to help the Relief Company pay for its new engine, admission fifty cents, "supper included." Though the newspapers of that day carried almost no personal or social news, the occasion received quite a lot of attention.¹ The Indianapolis

¹ Officers for the affair were Mrs. Peter Campbell, president; Mrs. Alex Morrison, vice-president; Mrs. John H. Bradley, secretary; and Mrs. Horace Bassett, treasurer. The following names appear among those

Locomotive queried, "What young lady will be the fairest of the fair at the Fireman's Fair—that great af-fair where the fair sex will be fairly shown to the best advantage? A pint of peanuts to the man that tells us in writing." And again, "Ladies hear what the Firemen say, Cupid and his torch—the only incendiary that kindles a flame which the Relief Engine cannot quench. Pretty— isn't it?" Between \$800 and \$1,000 was realized from the fair.

The loyalty of a volunteer fireman to his company was intense. Jealousies were bitter. The rivalry of getting "first" to a fire led to a series of fires that alarmed property owners and insurance men. One year an insurance company offered two prizes, a silver trumpet and a silver pitcher, to the two companies that were first and second to reach the most fires during that year. Hardly an old, unoccupied, or isolated frame building in town escaped flames, and the speed with which the firemen arrived was amazing. No insurance company ever made such an offer again.

By the fifties there were several companies, including the pioneer one, the old Marion Company, the Independent Relief Company, the Invincibles, composed mostly of German immigrants, the Spirit of Seventy-six on the South Side, and the Western Liberties on the West Side. Ironically, in 1851 the Marion Engine House on the Circle burned down. Most of the company's belongings and the engine were saved, but the city records on the second floor were burned. The fire was considered of incendiary origin. There were good grounds for believing so, for there was great discontent over the ramshackle quarters and it was suspected that a member of the company had started the fire. A new brick house was built for the company in 1855 at New York Street and Massachusetts Avenue. In 1859 the volunteer departments were disbanded when the paid fire department was organized.

serving on various committees: McCarty, Bates, Browning, Sheets, Talbott, Graydon, Elder, Coburn, Morris, Sharpe, Fletcher, Voorhees, Merrill, Bolton, and Ream.

'ROUND AND 'ROUND THE CIRCLE TO 1870

HAVING EXAMINED the Governor's Circle and Circle Park in the first period of its history, let us see what buildings faced it and what made the area of the Circle so interesting and important.

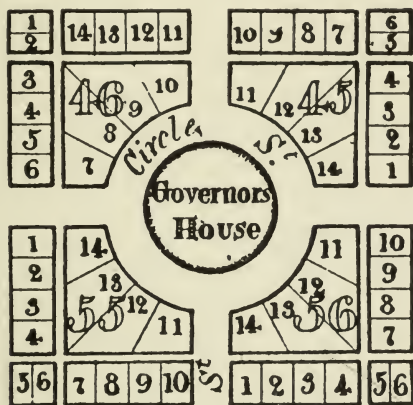
On Ralston's plat four lots were laid out on each of the four segments of the Circle. The lots in the northeast segment were in Square 45 of the town plat, numbered 11, 12, 13, 14; those in the southeast segment were in Square 56, numbered 11, 12, 13, 14; those on the southwest segment were in Square 55, numbered 11, 12, 13, 14; and those on the northwest segment were in Square 46, numbered 7, 8, 9, 10.

Northeast Section

Starting at the North Meridian intersection in Square 45, and moving clockwise, we come first to the Christ Church section (lot 11). William Hurst made a down payment of \$20.40 on the lot at the first auction of town lots on October 11, 1821. On June 29, 1826, the Reverend George Bush, minister of the Presbyterian Church, completed payment on the lot amounting to \$104.64 and took up residence in a cabin there. The Reverend Bush came to Indianapolis from Morristown, New Jersey, bringing with him his young bride. Scarcely a year later the wife died, leaving the young minister and a baby daughter alone. More of a scholar than frontier preacher, Bush left Indianapolis for New York in 1829 after a controversy with his church over church government, to devote himself to theological studies. He eventually joined the Swedenborgian church.

The Bush lot was then sold to Christ Episcopal Church, and on May 7, 1838, the cornerstone for the church was laid—the first church cornerstone in Indianapolis. In it were placed the first silver dimes and and half dimes brought into the

town. According to William R. Holloway, "Mr. Foster, the jeweler, then just returned from the East deposited coins of the new issue with 'the goddess of Liberty' upon them." The edifice was opened for worship in November and dedicated on December 16 by Bishop Jackson Kemper, the first missionary Episcopal bishop in Indiana. Ignatius Brown described it as a "plain but neatly finished and strongly built Gothic edifice of wood." "While it made no pretensions to architectural



ALEXANDER RALSTON'S PLAT OF GOVERNOR'S SQUARE

beauty, it was very far superior to any house of worship then erected in the place and undoubtedly gave impulse to the building of others." Ten years later the Indianapolis *Locomotive* described it: "A large frame building 36 feet by 56 in the clear on a foundation of brick raised three feet from the pavement. The entrance is by a vestibule in front which is surmounted by a belfry containing a bell. It contains a gallery in which is an organ and seats for about 50 persons; the body of the church is capable of seating 350 persons. The church occupies a beautiful position and has a fine appearance—with a new coat of paint on the outside, it would look as good as new."

Among the first vestry of Christ Church were Arthur St. Clair, Thomas McQuat, James Morrison, Joseph Moore,

and William Hannaman. The first resident rector was James B. Britton.

Christ Church played a vital role in the life of the little community. An important social event was Indianapolis' first church wedding performed there in 1840. Miss Justine Nowland, daughter of the bride and groom, tells the story of her parents' wedding as taken from her mother's scrapbook. The groom, John Nowland, was the son of Matthias R. Nowland, who came to Indianapolis in 1820, and the bride was Amelia Smith, daughter of a rich shipping merchant from New York and South Carolina. Her brother Lloyd, called "Count Smith" because he was the Beau Brummel of the town, was attired for the occasion in the first dress suit worn in Indianapolis. The bridesmaid was Nancy Sanders, daughter of Dr. John Sanders, afterward the wife of Dr. David Beatty. The groomsman was John Morris, son of Morris Morris and father of Mrs. Nannie Morris Haines.

Following is the account from the *Sentinel*, the local Democratic paper. "Married—on Monday last, July 27, 1840, at Christ Church, by the Rev. J. B. Britton, John H. B. Nowland, merchant, to Miss Amelia T. Smith, daughter of Justin Smith, Esq., all of this place. Those who devote their whole souls to the exciting theme of politics, have little time or inclination, to notice the less exciting themes of this busy world. Our political meditations were, however, arrested on Monday last, by the presentation of a bottle of the best wine that ever came to Indianapolis, and the best wedding cake that was ever baked, accompanied by above notice. We wish that all who ought to get up weddings would hurry and do so, and send us some of the same kind of accompanying documents. Although friend Nowland is one of the leaders of the Whig party of Marion County (as his fair partner takes the lead in beauty in this town) yet we wish them well. May they live till Gen. Harrison is elected or in other words may they live forever."¹

¹ It was evidently the usual custom to send cake with wedding notices to the newspapers. In fact, the editor of the Indianapolis *Journal* served notice that if no cake was received with the marriage announcement, it would

In 1857, the same year that the Governor's Mansion was torn down, the Christ Church building was sold to the African Methodist Church and moved to Georgia Street. A new edifice designed by William Tinsley was built on the old site. Tinsley came to America from Ireland in 1851. He was also architect for buildings on the Wabash College campus in Crawfordsville and at Northwestern Christian University in Indianapolis.

The new Christ Church, completed except for the spire in 1860, was built in the Gothic style. Begun and almost finished under the rectorship of the Reverend Joseph C. Talbot, it was consecrated in 1862. Bishop George Upfold at this service paid tribute to Talbot: "It is to his taste and untiring efforts the parish is very much indebted for this beautiful and imposing edifice, an ornament to the city and the diocese." In June, 1860, through the liberality of several members of the parish, four fine-toned bells were rung for the first time on Trinity Sunday. These were the first chimes in the city.

Although today Christ Church is considered a gem of Gothic architecture, there were those who doubted the outcome of the plans. The Indianapolis *Journal* of August 20, 1857, commented, "The new Episcopal Church in this city is to be of undressed limestone. A brick structure, with dressed stone door and window facings, built something after the style of the North Western Christian University, would look better and not cost so much. The new church, we think, will disappoint many who expected to see something extraordinarily tasteful and beautiful in its walls."

Adjoining the church on the same lot there had been erected in 1857 "a tasteful brick parsonage." Here lived the

be put in small type in an outlandish corner of the page; if a large piece was received, the letters would be large, if gloves or other favors were sent, it would be illustrated with poetry, and if the editor attended the ceremony and kissed the bride, the notice would be in very large type with "the best poetry that can be begged, borrowed, stolen or coined from the editorial brain."

Reverend Talbot, succeeded by the Reverends Horace Stringfellow, 1860-63; Theodore I. Holcomb, 1863-64; John P. T. Ingraham, 1864-68; and Benjamin Franklin, 1868-72.

Next door to Christ Church was the pretty little house and office of Dr. Isaac Coe. Dr. Coe came to Indianapolis in May, 1821, the second doctor to arrive (being preceded by Dr. Samuel G. Mitchell by one month). He was our first college-trained doctor, holding degrees from both Queens College, now Rutgers, and from New York Medical College.

A few months after he reached the little pioneer settlement an almost universal sickness prevailed. This was a malady that attacked the community each fall. Nearly every inhabitant was stricken with malaria, described as "chills and fever," which left the body numb and aching. Dr. Coe made rounds from cabin to cabin day and night through the dark woods, curing his patients with medicine from the wonderful Peruvian bark which he had brought with him. Stories tell that his calomel pills were "as big as cherries," and that one of his rivals, a new doctor who had just arrived, Dr. Jonathan Cool, wrote a little couplet which caused much amusement: "O Dr. Coe! O Dr. Coe! What makes you dose your patients so?"

Dr. Coe's name is connected with almost every group or committee that worked for the good of the people of the little village. He organized a Bible School for adults which met in his own house. This paved the way for a Sabbath school. The Union Sunday School under his guidance opened in April, 1823, in Caleb Scudder's cabinet shop. The same year the First Presbyterian Church was organized with Dr. Coe, James Blake, and Daniel Yandes comprising its building committee. Dr. Coe was one of the first elders.

When Dr. Coe came to Indianapolis, he lived in a cabin near the site of General Hospital. Then he moved to Pennsylvania Street and finally in the thirties built "the house with glass windows" on the Circle next to Christ Church. He left Indianapolis in 1853 to live with his son in Galena, Illinois.

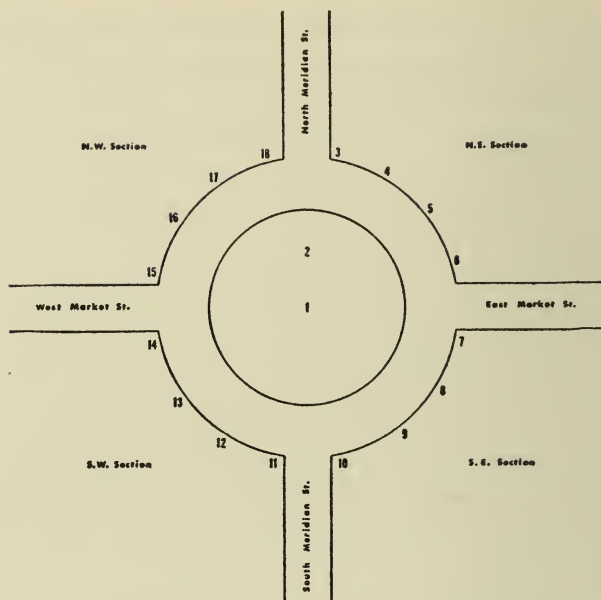
Dr. Coe bought three of the four lots in Square 45 (num-

bers 12, 13, and 14), the fourth being the Christ Church lot. He made his first payments on numbers 12 and 14 in 1821 and completed payment in 1825. Lot 12 next to Christ Church he acquired for about \$80.00, but he paid \$133 for 14 which was on the corner of Market Street. Coe made a down payment on lot number 13 in 1827 and completed payment in 1831, paying in all \$68.00.

The lot on which the Coe house stood was not sold until 1860 when Upton S. Newcomer bought it. It was sold later that same year to William H. Morrison. The latter built a very handsome home here and properly so, for he was a leading citizen of the community—banker, builder, and owner of Morrison's Opera House. His brother James Morrison served as secretary of state for Indiana and as corporation attorney for the incorporation of Indianapolis, and was senior warden of Christ Church.

The lot adjoining the Morrison home (the second lot from Christ Church) William H. Morrison also purchased. In 1870 he gave this property to the Episcopal Diocese, "a site of ample dimensions for a proper and permanent Episcopal residence." At the same time he gave the Diocese \$15,000. In 1872 the beautiful home was finished. Joseph C. Talbot, consecrated bishop of the Northwest in 1860, who had been living on Tinker Street (Sixteenth Street) moved into the new Bishop's House.

The last lot in this section (number 14) became the property of the First Presbyterian Church in 1841. After one year under the ministry of the Reverend David Proctor, a missionary minister, the little congregation had built a church in 1824, on Pennsylvania Street halfway between Market Street and Ohio. The Reverend George Bush followed Proctor as minister. He was succeeded by the Reverend John Moreland, whose daughter married Dr. William H. Wishard, and he in turn by the Reverend William Holliday, father of John H. Holliday, founder of the Indianapolis *News*. The pastor at the time the church moved to the Circle was the Reverend Phineas Gurley. The cornerstone of the new brick



GOVERNOR'S CIRCLE, 1850

1. Governor's Mansion (1827-1857)
2. Marion Fire Engine House (1835-1851)
3. Christ Church, 1838-
4. Dr. Isaac Coe's office
5. Dr. Isaac Coe's house
6. First Presbyterian Church (1843-1866)
7. William Lingenfelter's Boarding House
8. Oscar Mayhew
9. John M. Wood (entrance of Wood & Foudray Livery and Sale Stable on Pennsylvania St.)
10. Adam Haugh house and blacksmith shop
11. Methodist Church (Wesley Chapel) (1829-1868) and parsonage
12. Paxton and Cady homes
13. Austin Ballard (1851) } owned by Alex F. Morrison 1836-51
14. David Hunt (1851) }
15. Second Presbyterian Church (1840-1867)
16. William S. Hubbard
17. House of Harriet Quarles, widow of William Quarles
18. Edward Ames's house

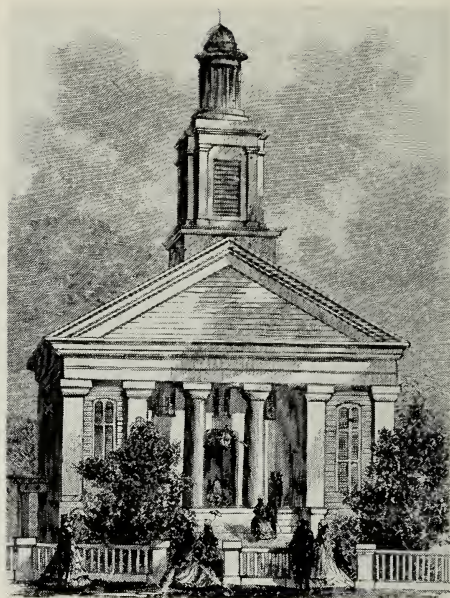
edifice was laid in 1841 and the church dedicated in 1843. It cost \$8,000. The Reverend Gurley came to First Church immediately after his graduation from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1840 and remained until 1849. A preacher of great ability, he also possessed a genial and winning disposi-



DR. ISAAC COE'S HOUSE AND OFFICE,
in northeast section.



EASTERN SECTION IN THE SEVENTIES. Foreground, left to right: Entrance to Wood Stable, Mayhew and Lingenfelter properties. Background, left to right: Plymouth and Christ churches, Morrison house, and Bishop's residence. *From photograph belonging to John Rugenstein.*



HENRY WARD BEECHER CHURCH
(Second Presbyterian)
From Harper's Weekly.



CIRCLE HALL
as remodeled from Beecher's church

Bass photo



FRANKLIN BUILDING.

At right, the Mayhew Block, later called the Wood Block, and entrance to Wood Livery Stable.



CHRIST CHURCH AND HOME OF WILLIAM H. MORRISON



Bass photo

FIRST COLUMBIA CLUB, built 1900 on site of Morrison house shown above. Group of club members bound for a ball game, Raymond VanCamp driving.

tion that endeared him not only to his own congregation but to all whom he met. His church on the Circle attracted many of the public men of the state, including Governor Samuel Bigger. Gurley and Henry Ward Beecher, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, became close friends. It is said that the friendship did a great deal to assuage the rancor between the First Church congregation and the Second which had separated from the mother church in 1838. Julia Merrill Moores tells a story of the first communion Sunday after the separation of the two churches. The dissenters having no pastor as yet of their own, returned to the First Church to worship. But no one spoke to them, or asked them to join in communion, so they sat silent.

After nine years of successful and devoted ministry Gurley left Indianapolis to the deep regret of his congregation and the town, to go to Dayton, then to Washington, D. C., where he achieved national fame. As pastor of the New York Avenue church, he became the close friend and pastor of President Lincoln. Gurley was with the President at his death, made the funeral address in the White House, accompanied the family to Springfield for the burial, and composed the hymn that was sung at the grave.

The ministers who served the church after Gurley left and while it remained on the Circle were Charles S. Mills, 1849-50; John A. McClung, 1851-55; Thomas M. Cunningham, 1857-60; and J. Howard Nixon, 1861-69.

By 1863 the congregation had again outgrown its building. A plan was made to rebuild on the Circle, but its execution was delayed by the Civil War. Then the congregation decided to move and a new church was started on the southwest corner of New York and Pennsylvania streets in 1866. The old church on the Circle was sold to James G. and Samuel M. Douglass and Alexander H. Conner, owners of the Indianapolis *Journal*. The building was razed and the Indianapolis Journal Building erected. The new structure, twice the height of any building in town, was now "the goal of many a rustic sightseer." It was not only a handsome building, five stories

tall, but it had water supplied to separate rooms by pressure obtained from an engine in the basement. At this time Judge Horatio C. Newcomb was the editor of the *Journal*, one of the ablest the paper ever had. In 1870 Lewis W. Hasselman and William P. Fishback bought the paper and Fishback became editor.

The Circle was strongly identified with newspaper life. As we continue around the Circle, we shall find a former home of the *Journal*, and homes of the *Sentinel*, *News*, and *Times* (not the predecessor of the present Indianapolis *Times*), and the *Star*.

Southeast Section

As we cross Market Street to the southeast corner, we are on the site of the Circle Tower Building. The first payment of \$18 on this lot (number 11, square 56) was made by William New in 1827. (William Hurst had made a payment on this lot in 1821, then apparently forfeited it.) William Lingenfelter bought New out and made the final payment to the agent of state in 1831. The total cost was about \$100! Lingenfelter kept a boarding house here as early as 1835 and the family held the property until 1873 according to deeds, though the City Directory still lists them at that address in 1880.

On the next lot (number 12) Eleazer Rollins made a down payment in 1821 of \$21.20. This was taken up by B. F. Morris in 1824 who paid an additional \$80 to complete the payments due. The lot changed hands several times before it was bought by Oscar Mayhew in 1857. The Mayhews had two very beautiful daughters who became actresses, one of whom, Kate, became quite famous. Some of the townspeople frowned upon such a profession for young ladies. The Mayhews lived on the Circle for many years in a one-story frame house on a large lot.

The next lot (number 13) was purchased by John Hawkins for \$90.00. Whether he ever lived there is not known. John Wood, who came to Indianapolis from Maysville, Kentucky,

in 1832, bought this lot and opened a thriving livery stable business in 1834. He also operated a stage line between Indianapolis, Richmond, Madison, and Dayton in the forties. His son John M., who carried on the livery business, married Margaret Gresham shortly after coming to Indianapolis, and they lived in a little log home on the Circle. They were a popular young couple and participated in the social activities of the community. It is said that one of the early governor's receptions was held in their cabin.

For a number of years the Woods operated their stable in partnership with John E. Foudray and the entrance to Wood & Foudray Livery Stable (later Wood & Foudray Livery and Sale Stable) was on Pennsylvania, where the Morrison Luggage Company is today. About 1871 the address was changed from Pennsylvania Street to 27 Circle. After John M.'s retirement in 1880, his son Horace F. carried on. Late in the 1870's part of the Mayhew property (lot 12) was purchased by the Woods. For years the people of Indianapolis hired riding horses, buggies, and carriages of all kinds here for excursions, parties, public events, and funerals. The stables also had for hire a tallyho and buckboards which carried crowds to the ball games.

The Wood stables had six beautiful black horses and a handsome hearse. There is a story that John M. Wood drove them in the funeral procession of Abraham Lincoln when his body was brought to lie in state in the Capitol on April 30, 1865. This may be folklore since newspaper accounts say that on that day it rained so hard that the elegant procession that had been planned was not held, and that the body was laid on a large funeral car built specially for the occasion and was taken with military escort directly to the State House.

Hiring of hacks and carriages is often mentioned in Booth Tarkington's stories—*The Magnificent Ambersons*, *The Turmoil*, and others. It is most probable that Tarkington referred to the Wood livery stables.

The corner lot (number 14) at Meridian, now occupied by the Power and Light Company, was sold first to Joseph Merrill

for less than \$160. Adam Haugh bought it in 1840. It was for his family that Haughville, a western section of Indianapolis, was named. Haugh, who was weighmaster for the first town corporation, built a blacksmith shop and home on his corner lot and lived there with his wife and ten children until 1859 when he sold his property to the Indianapolis Journal Company.

The story of the *Journal* includes the story of many of the community's leading citizens. The paper began in 1823 as the *Western Censor and Emigrants' Guide* under the ownership of Harvey Gregg and Douglas Maguire. Gregg sold his interest to John Douglass who came to Indianapolis from Corydon as state printer. In 1825 the paper became the *Indiana Journal*. Samuel Merrill was editor from 1826 to 1829. In 1835 Maguire sold his interest to S. V. B. Noel, who had previously been a printer for the *Journal* but had left Indianapolis to start a paper in Fort Wayne. Noel continued until 1842 when Douglass became the sole proprietor. The *Journal* was always a strong supporter of the Whig party, and backed the organization of the Republican party. When Douglass obtained as his editor a capable writer but a very pugnacious man, Theodore Barnett, he was frequently in controversy with the local Democratic paper, the *Sentinel*, then put out by George A. and Jacob Page Chapman. Another local paper of the day was the *Locomotive* which appeared for a few months in 1845 and 1847 and then regularly after January 1, 1848, until 1860. It, too, had its verbal battles with the *Sentinel*. On one occasion, there was a cartoon in the *Locomotive* showing Chapman blowing himself up with bellows, his cheeks distended and underneath the caustic caption, "CROW Chapman, CROW—BLOW Chapman, B-L-O-W." Ridiculing him for his conceit was a quotation from Chapman's own *Sentinel* with the oft-repeated word WE italicized.

The *Journal* went through a succession of ownerships and editorships and several variations of name. In 1845 John D. Defrees became editor. He was an experienced newspaperman with progressive ideas. It was he who first began a daily

paper. He put Berry Sulgrove, a very able writer and one of the best informed citizens who probably knew more about public affairs than anybody else in the community, in charge of the editorial department in 1854. Sulgrove often wrote under the colorful pen name of Timothy Tugmutton. That same year the paper was sold to the Journal Company which consisted of Ovid Butler, Joseph M. Tilford, James M. Mathes, and Rawson Vaile. It was this company who erected the building on the lot bought from Adam Haugh and moved the *Journal* office there from Washington Street in 1860.

After four years the paper was again sold, this time to William R. Holloway & Co., who engaged as editor Judge Horatio C. Newcomb. By 1866 the firm of Douglass & Conner had purchased the paper, and bought the old First Presbyterian Church property on the south corner of the northeast section of the Circle as mentioned previously.

Southwest Section

On the corner lot (number 11, square 55) of the southwest quarter of the Circle, where the Guaranty Building stands, was the home of the Methodist Church. As early as 1821 the Reverend William Cravens had organized a Methodist circuit in this area. Services had been held in the cabins of members until 1825 when a hewn log house was bought on the south side of Maryland near Meridian Street for \$300. Enlarged to seat two hundred people, it served as church and school until 1829, when the church moved to the lot on the Circle which was purchased from the state chiefly through the efforts of the Reverend Edwin Ray who had been the pastor since 1826. The new little brick church is described as having two entrance doors, one for the men and one for the women, and also two separated galleries, one on either side of the building. To summon the members to services it is said that Isaac N. Phipps, the steward, sounded a blast on his horn. The church was called Wesley Chapel after 1842.

In 1846 the walls of this building began to crack and it had to be replaced. The new church, erected on the same site,

was a larger and more elaborate structure of brick, built in Romanesque style at a cost of \$10,000. Its auditorium was on the second floor and reached by two flights of stairs which led from the front vestibule. The basement floor was built above ground, and housed a lecture room, a library, and a study.

It was a shock when Wesley Chapel began using a musical instrument in its services. This succeeded in bringing more discord into the church than harmony. Dissenting members separated from the Chapel in 1842, dividing the church into two charges, the Western, Wesley Chapel, and the Eastern, Roberts Chapel.² At this time James Havens was presiding elder of the Indianapolis district as he had been, with but one or two years' intermission, for almost ten years. The Reverend Lucien W. Berry became the stationed preacher at Wesley Chapel in October, 1842. The minutes of Roberts Chapel read, "We believe that the Scriptures require sacred music to be made with the human voice by singing with the spirit and with the understanding also, and be it unanimously resolved that instrumental music and choir singing in public worship shall never be introduced into the congregation attending said Chapel with our consent."

The only method of seating the congregation of Wesley Chapel which met with the approval of both preacher and members, was by separation of the sexes and allowing free seats. In 1857 great discontent grew from the introduction of "promiscuous sittings." Also a charge was made for pews, which many felt contributed to exclusiveness. A few wrote angry letters threatening to leave the church, among them Morris Morris, Susan Havens, Thomas Reckard, and William Sullivan.

Wesley Chapel was always an important influence in the spiritual and cultural life of our community. It was led by strong and spiritual men as pastors and elders. There are accounts in the newspapers during these years of many meet-

² The church divided again in 1845 forming a third charge, called Strange Chapel.

ings, lectures, exhibits, and services held in the chapel, not only on Sundays but on weekdays. In March, 1848, for instance, according to the *Locomotive*, "meetings were held every evening until 10 and 11 o'clock under the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Holliday." Once a newspaper item said: "Quere—who locked Wesley Chapel and carried the key off to prevent General Riley lecturing there on last Sunday."

Wesley Chapel is mentioned in a reminiscence of the famous Black Hawk War of 1832, related by Dr. William H. Wishard, and published in the *Indianapolis News* on February 3, 1911. Governor Noah Noble mobilized a battalion of men under the command of Col. Alexander W. Russell. At church time on a bright June morning the mounted riflemen started from Indianapolis for Lafayette. "As we passed old Wesley Chapel on the south of the Circle on the west side of Meridian street," Dr. Wishard recalled, "many women ran out into the street weeping and wailing at the departure of their husbands and brothers, to be surely slaughtered, as they supposed, by the bloodthirsty red men."

After forty years on the Circle, Wesley Chapel outgrew its second building. Under the energetic and able leadership of the Reverend Charles N. Sims, the congregation built a Gothic church on the southwest corner of New York and Meridian streets, which was dedicated in 1871. The congregation at this time changed its name from Wesley Chapel to Meridian Street Methodist Episcopal Church.³

³ The pastors of the Methodist Church from the time it moved to the Circle in 1829 until it moved to the new church on Meridian Street in 1869 were Thomas S. Hitt, 1829; Benjamin C. Stephenson, 1830, James Havens, 1831, C. W. Ruter, 1832-33; Edward R. Ames, 1834; J. Cummings Smith, 1835; Augustus N. Eddy, 1836; J. Cummings Smith, 1837; Allen Wiley, 1838-39; W. H. Goode, 1840-41; Lucien W. Berry, 1842-43; W. W. Hibben, 1844; William V. Daniels, 1845-46; Fernandez C. Holliday, 1847-48; John S. Bayless, 1849; B. F. Crary, 1850; W. C. Smith, 1851; John Kearns, 1852; J. P. Linderman, 1853; J. H. Noble, 1854-55; James Hill, 1856-57; Elijah T. Fletcher, 1858-59; C. D. Battelle, 1860-61; Samuel T. Gillett, 1862-63; William McK. Hester, 1864-66; and Charles N. Sims, 1867-69. (The last named served again from 1893 to 1898.)

Old Wesley Chapel was sold in 1868 to Richard Bright, owner and proprietor of the Democratic newspaper, the *Sentinel*. There was strong feeling against having a church turned into newspaper offices. Especially was there partisan sentiment on the part of the Republicans over having the church occupied by a Democratic newspaper. The building partially regained its moral tone in their estimation when the Republican *News* took space on the second floor.

The *Sentinel* was the voice of the Democratic party in the state, and a strong voice it was, exerting great political influence. It was the successor of the *Gazette* and the *Democrat*. The *Gazette* was started by George Smith and his stepson, Nathaniel Bolton (husband of the poetess Sarah T. Bolton) in 1822. Smith retired in 1829 and Bolton carried on alone until 1830 when the *Gazette* was consolidated with a new paper, the *Democrat*. Alexander F. Morrison, owner of the *Democrat*, withdrew after a few issues and published the *Democrat* separately; in 1833 he went into partnership with Bolton. Morrison sold his interest to John Livingston in 1836. In 1841 the paper was sold to George A. and Jacob P. Chapman who had been publishing a paper in Terre Haute. It was at this time the paper became the *Sentinel*.

Morrison and the Chapmans were always ready for newspaper controversy, and the papers they put out in the thirties and forties were largely political in content, and contained many a good fight.

John S. Spann became a partner of the Chapmans in 1846. In 1850 the paper was sold once more, this time to William H. Brown and his son Austin H. Brown, who had worked on the sheet from the time he was a young boy. The following year the paper became a daily. Brown made the paper a live one, and carried it on successfully until 1855. Then it was sold and resold, moved to various locations, and even had its name changed. It survived these adversities and was finally bought by Richard J. Bright in 1868. Bright rebuilt old Wesley Chapel on the Circle, leaving the walls standing but extending the front to the street. He there installed his paper in 1869,

having restored the name *Sentinel*, with J. J. Bingham as editor, a post he had held with short interruption since 1856. Bingham had been part owner during the Civil War period and carried the Democratic paper through this difficult period skillfully. An adroit political writer, he enlarged and improved it.

The Sentinel Building, for the period, was quite an impressive structure. Over the door was the date 1869. Late that year its second floor was occupied by the staff of a new paper, the Indianapolis *News*, the first issue of which appeared on December 7, 1869. Its editor was the young, energetic John H. Holliday. With the foresight that was to mark his entire career, he began the new paper, the night before its first regular issue with an "extra" which carried as its news Grant's message to Congress. The paper soon gained popularity. It was the first two-cent paper and the first permanent afternoon paper. Later for a short period, the *News* occupied space across Meridian Street in the Press Building.

Another important tenant of the Sentinel Building was the Indianapolis Public Library which moved from the High School Building, where it had been since 1873, to the Sentinel Building in 1875. After five years in the Sentinel Building, it moved again to its own building at Ohio and Pennsylvania streets.

Next door to the Sentinel Building, but going back to the days when it was still Wesley Chapel, there stood the parsonage of Wesley Chapel. Property for the parsonage, next to the church, lot number 12, had been purchased by Col. James Paxton in 1827 for about \$64.00. Paxton died in 1829 before he had completed payments, but his widow and George Norwood, a member of Wesley Chapel, made the final payments and turned the property over to the church, carrying out Paxton's wishes as expressed in his will. Paxton also left \$500 to the church toward the building of a brick parsonage.

Next to the parsonage (in lot 13) stood the Paxton home. This lot, like number 14, was purchased for \$80.00. William W. Wick made the first payment in 1827, then James Paxton

made two payments, and Mrs. Paxton paid the remainder after his death. Paxton, a militia colonel, represented Marion County in the last legislature that sat in Corydon and voted to move the capital to Indianapolis. He also served in the second legislature to convene in the new capital. A party was given in his honor to celebrate the removal of the capital to Indianapolis. John E. Baker and Colonel Paxton were contractors for building the Marion County Courthouse where the legislature met until the Capitol was built, and for other public buildings. He was also president of a local club of "Clay men" formed to boost Clay for the Presidency in 1824.

After his death his widow, Elizabeth Paxton, or "Aunty" Paxton as she was affectionately called, remained on the Circle. There were no children. She was active in the Methodist Church to which her husband left the generous bequest mentioned above. She sold the Circle property according to deed records in 1873, yet the City Directory of 1880 lists her as still living there.

Next door to the Paxtons was the "neat little cottage with a fence," home of General and Mrs. Charles W. Cady. Charles Cady brought his beautiful bride Abigail Kiersted from Cincinnati in 1842 to go to housekeeping on the Circle and to take an active part with him in the life of Christ Church. Among his other activities he was a member of the town council. There is an amusing story that he was the one who first made it popular in Indianapolis to wear a mustache. Mary Merrill Graydon tells of a child, who, never having seen a mustache before, said aloud to his father during a service in Christ Church, "Pa! What's the man doing with the caterpillar on his face?" Could it have been Charles Cady?

"Mama" Cady as she was called was left a young widow in 1855 with two sons and three daughters dependent on her. All through the years she was a devoted worker in her church, sang in the choir, worked in the Sunday school and was especially talented as a needlewoman. For many years the church sold "Abby Cady" dolls not only in this country but even abroad. A few are still in existence.

Abby Cady died in 1900. The City Directories list the property as occupied by the Cady family until 1903.

William Wick made the first payment of \$16.00 on the last lot in the southwest segment (number 14). Israel Phillips made the next three payments and Corson Vickers the final one. Alexander F. Morrison bought the lot in 1836. In 1851 it was divided, part being sold to Austin Ballard, a seal press engraver. He also was a general mechanic and saw sharpener and had his workshop in the rear of his home. He remained on the Circle until 1875. The remainder of the lot was sold to David Hunt who built a small frame house. His widow, Julia, lived there with her one child until the late sixties.

Northwest Section

We have reached the last section on our trip around the Circle, the northwest, in Square 46 of the town plat, which most Indianapolis residents today nostalgically think of as the site of the old English Hotel and Opera House. A payment of \$40.20 was made on the first lot (number 7) by Henry Willison in 1821, but no more payments were made. One payment of \$15.60 was made on lot number 8 by Samuel Terry, but he likewise forfeited. The state then decided to hold these two lots for gardens and stables for the Governor's Mansion, but since no governor ever lived there, they were never so used. On May 22, 1839, lot 7 was sold to Samuel Merrill, Daniel Yandes, and Edwin J. Peck, trustees of the Second Presbyterian Church.

Fifteen members of the First Presbyterian Church had withdrawn in November, 1838, to form a new church, the Second Presbyterian, because of differences of opinion in doctrinal beliefs.⁴ The first services were held in the Marion County Seminary on University Square. On July 31, 1839,

⁴The fifteen members of the First Presbyterian Church who withdrew to form the Second Church were Bethuel F. Morris, Daniel Yandes, Luke Munsell, Lawrence M. Vance, Mary J. Vance, Sidney Bates, William Eckert, Alexander H. Davidson, Robert Mitchell, William S. Hubbard, J. F. Holt, M. R. Holt, John L. Ketcham, Jane Ketcham, and Catharine Merrill.

a young minister, Henry Ward Beecher, came with his family from Lawrenceburg, Indiana, to be the minister of the church, then numbering thirty-two members. On October 4, 1840, the new church on the Circle was dedicated. The little white frame structure was built by Ephraim Colestock for \$8,800. Its auditorium was on the second floor reached by a flight of steps which led to a portico supported by smooth round columns. Its seating capacity was about three hundred. There was a small belfry which William S. Hubbard described as a "pepper-box belfry." Its style "was somewhat like that of a small New England church, and the effect was pleasing."

What was the community like when Beecher came to serve it? In her book *From Dawn to Daylight* Mrs. Beecher describes the town as she first saw it: "It is a broad, level stretch of land as far as the eye can reach, looking as if one good thorough rain would transform it into an impassable morass. How the inhabitants contrive to get about in rainy weather, I can't imagine unless they use stilts. The city itself has been reclaimed from this slough and presents a thriving appearance being very prettily laid out, with a number of fine buildings. Excepting in the main business streets, the houses are not so huddled together as after the manner of our eastern cities, but each has a fine back and front yard, and the streets are broad with shade trees on each side. On the whole, when seen on a fair sun-lighted day, it is rather attractive on first sight; but after a while, the eye tires of the sameness and longs for some one or two elevated points to rest upon, if it be but a mole hill."

Genial and informal in his manner, Henry Ward Beecher quickly became popular with his congregation. Fiery and eloquent in his preaching he drew many people to his church and exerted a great influence in the town. Simon Yandes said that "he was admirably adapted to western life, entering into all the social life and engagements of the little town. He had a special talent for conversation, was full of wit and fun and always had his faculties in immediate command. It was but a little while after his coming until he knew everybody here.

It is greatly to be doubted if he improved in his oratorical style when he became older. . . .”

He had boundless energy. He himself told of helping to paint his own house, and of wading ankle deep in mud to his church where “I preached with my pantaloons tucked into my boot tops.” Beecher edited an agricultural magazine, *The Indiana Farmer and Gardener*, later *Western Farmer and Gardener*. This was issued as a semimonthly from the *Journal* office by an arrangement worked out between Beecher and S. V. B. Noel of the *Journal*. Some give Beecher credit for growing the first tomato in town, but Calvin Fletcher’s diary says that Alexander Ralston raised the first tomato and Beecher the first cauliflower in 1843. Beecher loved to play games with children, drive fast horses—in short, he proved that a minister could also be a very human man. While he was in the community his name was always associated with any worthwhile projects that were under way.

An unusual incident which took place during Beecher’s ministry was a joint baptism held by three churches—Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist, on the banks of White River in 1842. Those to be baptized were given the choice of three methods: “immersion, sprinkling, or pouring.” The centennial history of the Second Church quotes a record of the event: “On Sunday, the 10th of April, 1842, the following persons were baptised, viz.—Mrs. Esther Vandegrift & her infant child Frances Matilda by sprinkling; and Charles Williams, pouring or affusion; Thomas A. Morris, Elliott Davis, Sarah L. Norris, and Daniel Foutz, by immersion.” The child Frances Matilda was to become the wife of Robert Louis Stevenson.

Beecher was so outraged by conditions of vice in the little frontier community that he gave a series of lectures to young men. These were the first of his sermons to receive national fame and were published in a book entitled *Seven Lectures to Young Men*.

In spite of his reputation for oratory, Beecher was not satisfied with his sermons, and decided to study those of the

Apostles and copy them. He saw that they used not scholarly language, but the language of the people. His newly planned, very dramatic sermons brought people flocking to his church. John Spann said of him, "The choicest men and women of the city and state attended his services." Oliver H. Smith, one of his flock, described a service: "The church was crowded. The discourse held the congregation over an hour and a half in deep feeling. As a preacher, Beecher is the landscape painter of Christianity. . . . He has no model. He is the original of himself. He plays on language as a skillful performer does upon the keys of his piano."

The first church choir in Indianapolis was organized in Beecher's church. Its leader was Charles Beecher, Henry's brother, who also played the organ. The first choir members were "A. G. Willard, John L. Ketcham, Mrs. Ketcham, Lawrence M. Vance, A. H. Davidson, Dr. Ackley, Mrs. Ackley, Mrs. Graydon, Mrs. Merrill, and Master Albert Willard."⁵ The *Locomotive*, a local paper, voiced a complaint about the choir: "What was the matter with their time? The members didn't keep together. On the line 'and sweet shall be their rest' some have finished while others are still on 'r——est!'"

One event of particular interest that took place in the Beecher church on the Circle was the result largely of the efforts of James M. Ray. Concerned over the need for education and care of the blind, he brought a group of pupils to the church from the Kentucky Asylum for the Blind to put on demonstrations for the citizens of Indiana. This was instrumental in influencing the Indiana legislature to levy a tax for building a school for the blind.

Beecher announced his resignation from Second Church on August 12, 1847. A farewell party was given for him by

⁵ *The Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, 1838-1938* (Indianapolis, 1939), p. 107. The Honorable Oliver H. Smith, in his *Early Indiana Trials and Sketches* (Cincinnati, 1858), p. 93, has the first choir composed of "A. G. Willard, John L. Ketcham, Lawrence M. Vance, Alexander H. Davidson, Dr. Ackley, Master Albert Willard, Mrs. Ackley, Mrs. Ketcham, Miss Graydon and Miss Merrill."

the young men of the church at which he was presented with a gold watch. He left Indianapolis for scenes of greater fame on October 1, traveling on the first railroad train that left Indianapolis. "On a wood car rigged up with boards, across from side to side, went I forth," he wrote. "The car was no car at all, a mere *ex tempore* wood box, used sometimes without seats for hogs, but with seats for men, of which class I happen to be one. And so at 11 o'clock at night I arrived in Madison, not overproud in the glory of riding the first train that ever went from Indianapolis to Madison."

The *Journal* had an account of the beginning of the town's history as a railroad center: "Friday, Oct. 1st, 1847, was an era in our history. On that day we were linked with commerce. From the beginning of the world until that day, the rattling of the cars and the whistle of the locomotive were unknown sounds, but from then until the end of civilization, perhaps to the end of time, those sounds will never die away."

In the years that Beecher lived here, Indianapolis began to grow, though perhaps not as much as the *Journal* account of November 2, 1847, would lead one to believe: "[Indianapolis] . . . is not as it used to be;—to the name it has added the appearance of a city. The completion of the rail road has transformed its every feature, and one, looking upon its crowded thoroughfare and listening to the din and confusion of its commerce, could scarce conceive it once had been 'the sweetest village of the plain.'

"Indianapolis has changed. Lumbering wood carts and sway backed Pennsylvania wagons are not the only vehicles that now grace our streets, but hacks are whirled to and fro, and more than all, an omnibus—yes! a *bona fide* omnibus—with its ebon attendant, as obsequious as a Frenchman and impudent as a cockney, rattles daily along our *Broadway*, and arouses every morning with the merry blast of its horn a host of slumbering clerks."

The Second Presbyterian Church continued on the Circle for twenty years after Beecher left. The pulpit remained vacant for almost a year, being occupied temporarily by the

Reverend S. G. Spees. Then followed a succession of ministers: Clement Babb, 1848-53; Thornton A. Mills, 1854-57; George P. Tindall, 1857-63; and Hanford Edson, who came in 1864 and was the pastor when the church sold its building on the Circle and built its present church edifice at Vermont and Pennsylvania streets. The last service held in the old Circle church was the marriage of the Reverend Edson to Miss Helen Rockwood.

In the summer of 1867 the Trustees of the Public Schools bought the Second Church for \$13,500, and remodeled it at an additional cost of \$4,500 to be the home of the Indianapolis High School. It opened in September, 1868. This was a period of great advancement for the schools. A. C. Shortridge had been brought here from Northwestern University as Superintendent of Schools in 1863. He instituted a full school year of thirty-nine weeks and a system of grading—primary, intermediate, and high. The credit for laying the groundwork for the progress of these years belongs to the trustees, Thomas B. Elliott, Clemens Vonnegut, William H. Noble, James C. Yohn, and John R. Elder, and the president of the school board, William A. Bell.

Next door to this building while it was still the Beecher church was a school called the Franklin Institute. Founded in 1837 by a group of private citizens, Philip Sweetser and William Quarles, lawyers, Colonel Alexander W. Russell, Dr. G. W. Stipp, and others, it had its first home on Washington Street, but in 1838 it built on the Circle, on lot 8, purchased from the state, "a small frame building with a belfry." The school opened on June 4, 1838, for two terms of eleven weeks each. Gilman Marston was principal, with Mrs. Eliza Richmond teacher of "the Females." Succeeding Marston as principal were Orlando Chester and John Wheeler. The tuition as advertised in the *Journal* was: Primary, \$4.00; English Grammar, Arithmetic, Ancient and Modern Geography and History, \$5.00; and Higher Branches, \$6.00.

The *Indiana Democrat* on June 13, 1838, carried an announcement concerning the Institute which stated: "The

guardians of the institution wish it to be distinctly understood, that this school is a desirable place of resort for those whose object is intellectual and moral improvement, and not for the idle and the perverse, and no one whose habits and influence are of an immoral tendency, will be permitted to remain in the school." William R. Holloway, in his history of Indianapolis, describes Franklin Institute as "the best school the city had ever had."

The Institute did not last long, for the *Journal* in 1843 speaks of "the late Franklin Institute." The Indianapolis Female Collegiate Institute organized by Miss Leseur occupied the building for a few years.

According to deeds this property was sold in 1846 to William S. Hubbard, a prominent member of the Second Presbyterian Church and a member of the Marion fire company. In his diary he wrote, "In the early days of the church [the Second Presbyterian] I lived next door to it." He came here in 1836 at the request of his uncle, Isaac Coe, to manage Dr. Coe's property. Hubbard lived on the Circle until 1864, when he sold his large house to William H. English. The English family moved into their new home on New Year's day 1865.

A noticeable discrepancy occurs in records concerning the lot next to the Presbyterian church. Isobel Field, Fanny Vandegrift's daughter, in her book about her mother and stepfather, Robert Louis Stevenson, *This Life I've Loved*, says that her grandfather, Jacob Vandegrift, came to Indianapolis in 1836 and "built a little red brick house next door to the Beecher church." Fanny was born in 1840 and supposedly lived there until 1851 when her father built Vandegrift's Row at Illinois and Michigan streets. Also Fred Thomas, Fanny Vandegrift's nephew, in correspondence with the author, says that his mother, Fanny's sister Josephine, was born in "the house next door to the Beecher church." The records show this property was deeded first to the trustees of Franklin Institute in 1838 and then to William Hubbard in 1846. It must be that there was a small lot between the church and the In-

stitute lot belonging to the Vandegrifts for which, for some reason, the records have been lost.

The next lot (number 9) was sold by the state in 1832 to John Jamison, then successively to William Sanders, Henry Porter, and, in 1837, to William Quarles, a lawyer. Quarles died two years later, but his widow lived there for many years, finally selling in 1859 to Robert Walpole. He immediately resold to James McKernan, a real estate man who built a handsome home there. Part of this property went to the Plymouth Church in 1864 and part to William H. English in 1870.

The last lot (number 10) was sold in 1826 for about \$56.00 to Sarah Hanson a widow with five children. Five years later she sold to Henry Porter. Porter died leaving the property to his wife who married Edward Ames, minister of the Methodist Church. He became president of De Pauw University in 1848 while still living on the Circle. The Ames family did not sell until 1858. Their purchaser was the Plymouth Congregational Church.

The Plymouth Church perhaps does not rightfully belong in the story of the Circle, as it was built at the north end of the lot and faced Meridian Street directly opposite Christ Church. Its south side adjoined the Circle, and its story is so closely interwoven with the Circle story that it can scarcely be omitted. Including it, there were five churches in the area—Christ Episcopal, First Presbyterian, Wesley Chapel (Methodist), Second Presbyterian, and Plymouth Congregational.

The front part of Plymouth Church (lecture room, study, and social rooms) was completed in 1859, although the entire church building was not finished until 1867. The Reverend Nathaniel Hyde, who served as pastor from 1859 to 1867 guided its development all through this growing period. Other pastors who served while the church was in this location were E. P. Ingersoll, 1868-71; J. L. Bennett, 1871-73; O. S. Dean, 1873-77; and Oscar C. McCulloch, 1877-91.

This concludes our trip around the Circle in its early years.

CIRCLE PARK AGAIN

THE CENTER OF THE CIRCLE was in the midst of change. Its uses were varied. Some older residents today remember a public pump which stood there in the early seventies. A newspaper story of 1876 verifies the fact that there was a flagpole there then, too. One morning during the gubernatorial campaign a passer-by saw floating from the top of the flagstaff a pair of blue jeans inscribed with the word "Uncle Jimmy's." The Democratic candidate for governor, James D. Williams, was being lampooned by Republicans as "Blue Jeans" Williams, a designation that doubtless helped elect him to Indiana's highest office. A reward was offered for the identification of the perpetrators of "the outrage" on the Circle, but the Republican offenders were never brought to justice.

The *Sentinel* on January 8, 1882, complains of the condition of Circle Park which "is susceptible of being made . . . the most attractive location in the city. . . . There is a provision in the State Constitution that this Park shall never be sold or leased, so that it is dedicated to public use for all time to come. . . . The neglect of this park by the city authorities of Indianapolis is very much to their discredit. The southern side is virtually a stable yard by reason of its being used as an express and wagon stand. Suitable lights are not provided, either in the park or street, and the fencing and gates are shamefully neglected. . . ."

Shortly after this an attempt at improving the lights was made. The year before, 1881, the Indianapolis Brush Electric Light and Power Company had been incorporated. Their first experiment in lighting was at the Union Station. In 1886 five wooden towers were erected with Brush lights on their tops with the hope that they would illuminate the mile square. The highest of these was placed in the center of the Circle. It was 153 feet high and had a small elevator like a dumb waiter on which a man could ride to the top to change

the carbons. As the elevator balanced at 150 pounds, only a small man could be used for the job. The lighting was supplied without charge. It did not prove a success. It is said that boys demolished the globes, and that the lights were so high that they made a glare at the top and left the sidewalks dark beneath. The tower was replaced by lower lights mounted on mast arms at the four street intersections.

Indiana wanted to honor its great war governor, Oliver P. Morton, with a permanent memorial and it was decided that a statue of him should be placed in the center of the Circle. To choose the sculptor a contest was held. Some were unhappy that the winner was not a local contestant, Miss India Underhill, a pupil of a much-loved local artist, Jacob Cox. However, the commission was awarded to Franklin Simmons, an American sculptor who lived in Rome, Italy. He had won acclaim as the sculptor of many noted Civil War statues.

When the statue was finished it was placed in the center of the Circle facing south. It was encircled by an iron fence. The day of unveiling was set for June 15, 1884. At the celebration Governor Conrad Baker presided and Senator Benjamin Harrison and Col. William Dudley made speeches. Professor Ridpath, the historian, came from Greencastle to read a poem. All agreed that historians should stick to their history. The next week the local *Herald* carried a story reporting that Governor Morton had appeared at a seance and had said that he considered his statue a good likeness, and that the only part of the dedication ceremony that he didn't like was Professor Ridpath's poem.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT

SPASMODICALLY in the years following the Civil War there had been talk of building a monument to honor the heroes of the war. A story had run in the Indianapolis *Daily Journal* on April 1, 1862, headed "A Proposition" and signed "Hoosier," which suggested that "a monument be erected in Circle Park to all from Indiana who fell in defense of the Union." The suggestion was made that "each county should pay for a block with the names inscribed on it of the veterans from that county." Nothing came of the suggestion.

Sometime later, in 1867, Governor Morton in a speech to the General Assembly suggested that such a monument be erected on Crown Hill, the highest point in Crown Hill Cemetery. This, too, fell on deaf ears.

On May 30, 1872, William H. English, in a Memorial Day address to a group of veterans, suggested the erection of a Civil War monument at Crown Hill; after his talk a memorial was prepared and sent to Governor Conrad Baker urging him to recommend the project to the General Assembly. When the Assembly met in special session that fall, the Governor did bring it to the attention of the legislators and a bill was introduced but failed to pass.

The next stimulus apparently came from George J. Langsdale, editor of the Greencastle *Banner* who was one of a group of six Civil War veterans who met regularly in his print shop to discuss affairs of the day. They were known as "the Banner Alley Sextet." The members were George Langsdale, Capt. Joseph Donohue, Lieut. Henry Meltzer, Capt. Lucius Chapin, and Capt. J. F. Fee. One night Langsdale called a special meeting to discuss his scheme to erect a monument in memory of the war dead. After talking excitedly until early morning they decided that Langsdale should attend a reunion of veterans to be held in Indianapolis to lay his plan before

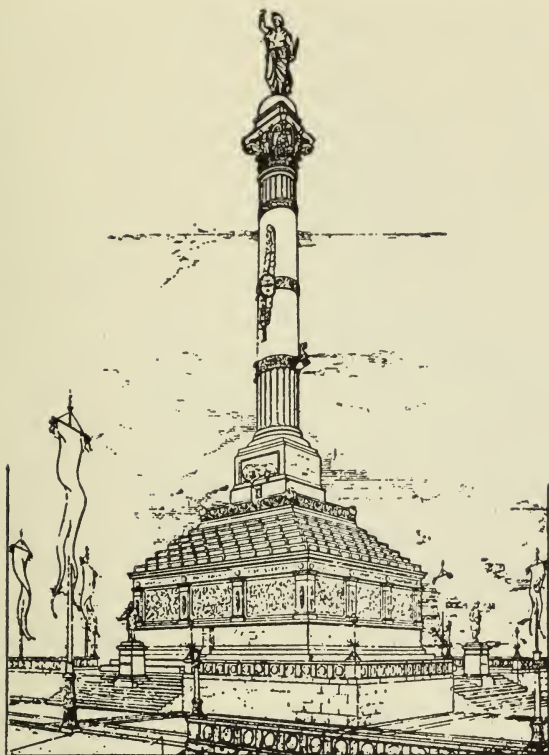
them. This was in 1875. A Monument Association was formed to raise money for the proposed monument, and about \$1,000 was contributed. Further efforts came to nought at that time and the money was laid away.

In 1877 Governor Morton died and once more the erection of a monument became a topic of public discussion. Enthusiasm soon died away again, however, and the friends of Morton contented themselves with raising the funds to erect the Morton statue in the Circle. Subsequently, in response to resolutions presented by Gen. John Coburn at the encampment in 1882, the Grand Army of the Republic took charge of the enterprise and raised \$1,500. Gen. James Carnahan was Department Commander. In 1887 the legislature took the big step and made a grant of \$200,000 and appointed a Monument Commission.

The original commission was composed of George J. Langsdale of Greencastle, Samuel B. Voyles of Salem, D. C. McCollum of La Porte, and Daniel M. Ransdell and George W. Johnston of Indianapolis. At the first meeting on June 28, 1887, Langsdale was unanimously elected president. James F. Gookins, an Indianapolis artist, was chosen secretary, and the next month George W. Johnston was elected treasurer. In July, 1889, Daniel N. Ransdell resigned and was replaced by Gen. Thomas W. Bennett of Richmond. In 1890 Samuel Voyles was replaced by Gen. Mahlon D. Manson of Crawfordsville. Bennett died in 1893. His place on the board was filled by William H. English.

An advisory board of experts was selected to assist the commission. It consisted of Professor John L. Campbell of Wabash College, a civil engineer, Professor William R. Ware of the School of Mines, Columbia College, New York, an architect, and Gen. Thomas A. Morris of Indianapolis.

Several locations had been proposed for the monument since it had been under consideration, including Crown Hill Cemetery, University Park, the corner of Illinois and Washington streets, and Circle Park. George Langsdale was from the first opposed to the cemetery site. In the 1887 act the



DESIGN FOR MONUMENT SUBMITTED BY RICHARD M. HUNT, NEW YORK

legislature ordered the commissioners to build the Monument "on the ground commonly known as Circle Park."

Ten outstanding American architects or firms were invited to submit sketches for which each was to receive \$200.¹ Also, advertisements were placed in the newspapers of the leading cities in the United States, Canada, England, France, Germany, and Italy, inviting architects to enter the competition and submit designs. A complete set of rules as well as an historical sketch of Indiana written by George Langsdale, a map of Indianapolis, and a diagram of the Circle, was sent each com-

¹ The ten architects were: Richard M. Hunt, New York; George R. Post, New York; Van Brunt and Howe, Kansas City; Cabot and Chandler, Boston; T. P. Chandler, Philadelphia; Burnham & Root, Chicago; Frederick Baumann, Chicago; James W. McLaughlin, Cincinnati; Adolph Scherrer, Indianapolis; and Peabody and Stearnes, St. Louis.

petitor. The entries were submitted by number only, so that there would be no knowledge of the contestant's identity. January 12, 1888, was set as the final date for receiving entries.

From the seventy designs submitted, two were chosen unanimously by the commissioners—Number 4, offered under the title "Symbol of Indiana," which the board referred to as "the most striking and brilliant of all those presented," and Number 68, entitled "Acta non Verba," of which the commissioners said, "Its merits were incontestable." At this point of indecision the board decided to open the two envelopes accompanying the designs and found that Number 4 was by Bruno Schmitz of Berlin, Prussia, and Number 68 by Percy G. Stone of London, England. It was unanimously decided by the commissioners to accept the design of Bruno Schmitz.

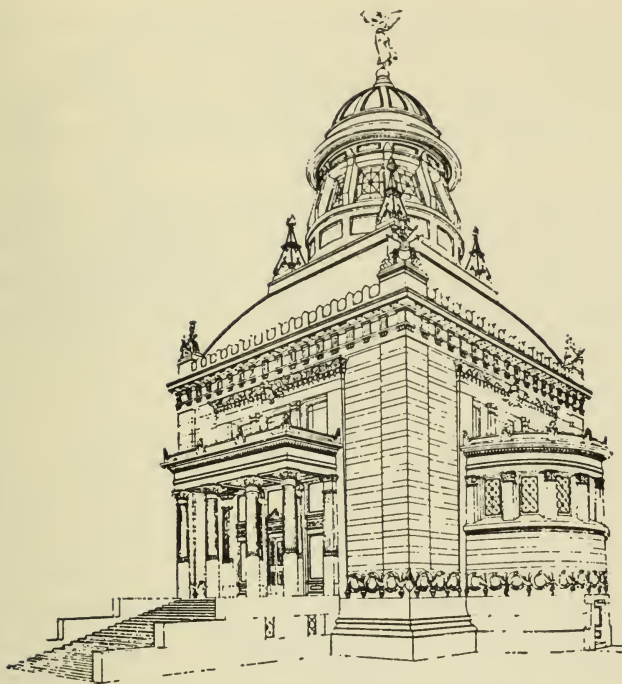
Schmitz was summoned to come to Indianapolis, where he received his appointment as supervising architect in February, 1888. By his contract he was to be paid 5 per cent of the entire cost of erecting the monument. Percy G. Stone, the second choice, was sent a premium of \$500 for his design.

Schmitz had already received acclaim in Europe for his many fine statues and works of art. A designer of great ability, he was considered to have more knowledge in the field of monument design than any architect in the United States. His work was familiar to the commissioners as he and James F. Gookins, secretary of the board, had been friends and fellow artists in Munich.²

Frederick Baumann³ of Chicago was appointed deputy architect and authorized representative under Schmitz. Before starting the construction, Baumann made a detailed survey and report on the Washington Monument, the Statue of Liberty,

² Bruno Schmitz did not come to Indianapolis a stranger. Already a friend of Gookins, he was introduced to Hermann Lieber of Indianapolis, by his brother Otto Lieber who lived in Schmitz's home town of Düsseldorf in Germany, and also to Julius Lemcke and Theodore Stempfel. When he came to Indianapolis, he usually stayed with the Liebers or the Lemckes.

³ Baumann has received nationwide acclaim for his "floating pier foundation" theory. This was a method of steel construction which made possible the erection of skyscrapers.



DESIGN FOR MONUMENT SUBMITTED BY FREDERICK BAUMANN, CHICAGO

and other outstanding monuments in the East. A new drawing of the design of the Indiana monument with some changes and improvements was copyrighted. A large water color of it was placed on public exhibition and hundreds of copies of it were sold to help finance the work.

While the monument was under construction, John Edwards of Indianapolis was granted the privilege of building a high board fence around Circle Park for the purpose of displaying advertising. He paid \$430 for the privilege for two years. The great expanse of billboards must truly have added to the beauty of the Circle!

In May, 1888, the contract for the central foundation was let to Enos Hege of Indianapolis. It was completed by the end of the year.

Bruno Schmitz arrived from Germany in January, 1889, bringing with him a plaster model of his monument. Work

began at once on contracts for the approaches, terraces, and superstructure. The Terre Haute Stone Works Company received the contract and Thomas McIntosh of Greencastle, an expert in stonework, became superintendent to represent the board.

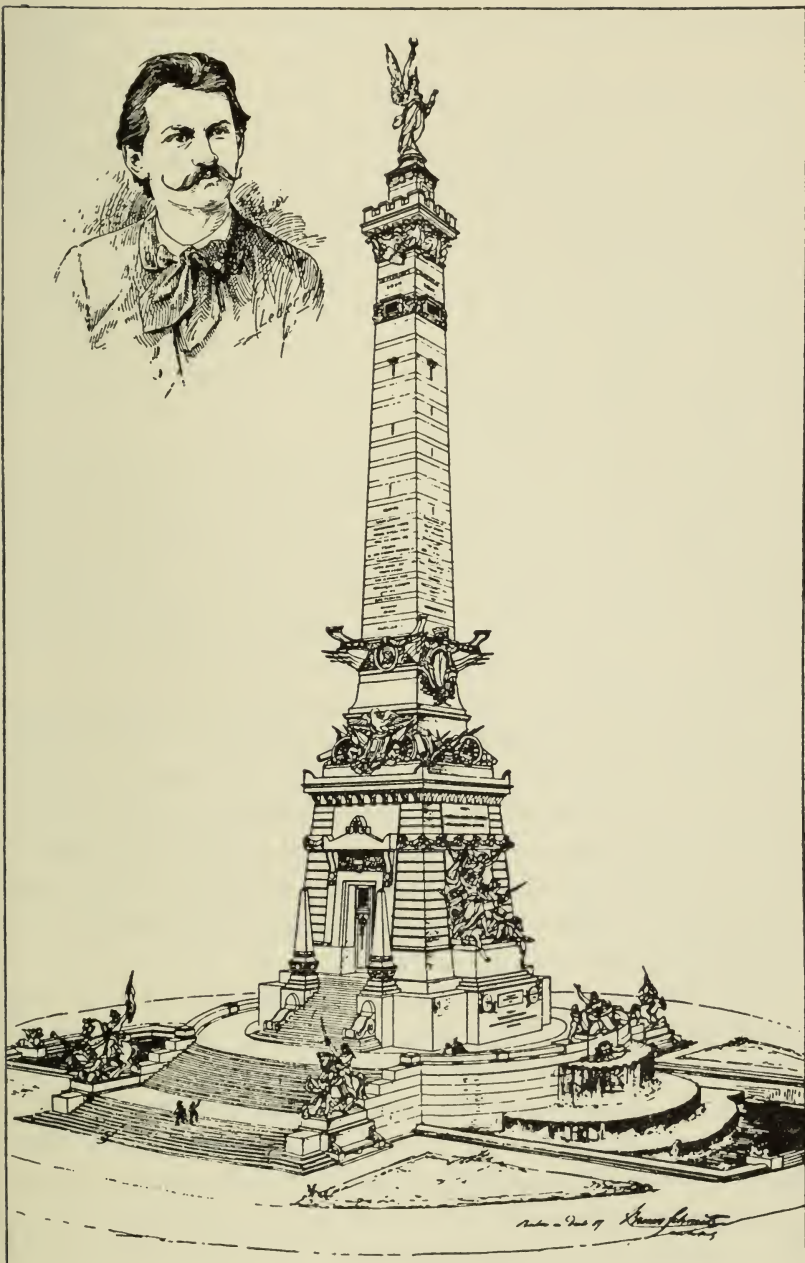
On August 22, 1889, the cornerstone was laid with impressive ceremonies at the northeast corner of the Monument. In it is a large copper box containing the complete reports of the adjutant general during the War for the Union which give a list of all soldiers from Indiana who fought in the war. Also included are the rituals, badges, and rosters of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Woman's Relief Corps, the Sons of Veterans, and reports of many other organizations, copies of daily and weekly newspapers, and of the first and second constitutions of the State of Indiana, an impress of the Seal of State, the Acts of the General Assembly providing for the Monument, autographs of the Board of Commissioners for the Monument, an American flag with thirty-eight stars, a photograph of the architect, Bruno Schmitz, and the program of the exercises at the cornerstone laying.

The Department Commander of the G. A. R. was master of ceremonies. President Harrison made one of the dedicatory speeches. Members of his cabinet, Governor Alvin P. Hovey, and other state officials were there. There was martial music and firing of artillery, and a great parade took place in honor of the day.

The inscription on the cornerstone reads:

August 22, 1889
ERECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF INDIANA
Act of General Assembly
March 3, 1887

The monument was destined to be the story of the War between the States—the first in the nation to be dedicated to the common soldier. It took twelve years to complete. While it was being erected, a tall scaffold hid the work from curious eyes. The work had not progressed very far, when it was



ACCEPTED DESIGN FOR MONUMENT SUBMITTED BY BRUNO SCHMITZ,
BERLIN, PRUSSIA

discovered that the plans of the architect, Bruno Schmitz, could not be carried out without additional funds. The legislature of 1891 levied a tax of five mills on each one hundred dollars worth of property for the years 1891 and 1892 which brought in over \$123,000. In addition to this, the legislature made several appropriations totaling \$160,000. The complete cost of the Monument was almost \$600,000.

At this time the name of the Circle was changed again. Originally called Governor's Circle, the name had been changed in 1867 to Circle Park. An act of 1893 changed it again to Monument Place and provided for the custody and care of the Circle and the Monument.

The monument is built of gray oölitic limestone from the Romona quarries of Owen County, Indiana, a stone of very fine quality and great durability. The foundation of the monument is 30 feet in depth and the shaft is 284 feet, 6 inches in height. At the base the monument is 52 feet in diameter and it decreases in size until it measures 12 feet beneath its capital.

On the north and south sides are broad stone steps seventy feet long leading to the bronze entrance doors where large tablets bear inscriptions commemorating the Indiana Volunteers in the War for the Union 1861-65, the War with Mexico 1846-48, Indian and British Wars 1811-12, War of the Revolution and the capture of Vincennes from the British on February 25, 1779. Above these tablets is the inscription of dedication: "To Indiana's Silent Victors."

On the east and west sides of the Monument are cascade fountains, each with a minimum capacity of seven thousand gallons of water per minute. The water is supplied by wells beneath the monument. The first cascades which were built were too small and the water supply was unsatisfactory. For awhile it was thought best to take them out and have only grass plots on either side with fountains for decoration. However, in 1894, the old cascades were torn out and replaced with larger ones by Conrad Bender in accordance with the drawings and specifications of Louis H. Gibson, architect and adviser.

Louis Koss of Indianapolis did the work of installing the engines that pumped the water.

There are three bronze astragals encircling the monument, one seventy feet above the base, the second, twelve feet above that, and the third, eighty feet higher, just below the capital. The contracts for these were awarded through competition. The lowest one, one of the most impressive features of the monument, represents the army and shows the implements and carnage of war. It was designed by Nicolaus Geiger of Germany. This one was not approved by the art experts, Theodore C. Steele, William Forsyth, and John H. Mahoney when first submitted. After many changes it was finally accepted and sent to be cast in 1894. The second, the naval astragal, represents the ships used in the war, including Admiral Farragut's flagship "Hartford." It was designed by George W. Brewster of Cleveland. Completed, it cost \$13,700. He also designed the top astragal, bronze panels with the dates 1861 and 1865 in gold figures.

The commissioners had planned to mark on this last astragal, dates commemorating Indiana's part in the war with Mexico. This caused an outburst of opposition, especially on the part of the Indiana Department of the G. A. R. The commissioners were bitterly criticized. Two years later, in 1893, the commissioners agreed to use only the Civil War dates and to represent the various epochs of Indiana's military history by adding statues of outstanding men of each period.

The crowning figure of the monument, "Victory," popularly known to all native Hoosiers as "Miss Indiana," was also designed by George W. Brewster at a cost of \$12,500. The capital, supported by eight stone eagles, includes a balcony surrounding a turret nineteen feet high which supports the statue. Including the bronze globe on which she stands, which is eight feet in diameter, "Victory" is thirty feet tall and weighs 19,300 pounds. In the commissioners' report the statue is described as follows:

"Her right hand holds a sword, the point of which rests upon the globe and symbolizes the army to which victory was

due, while in her left hand she holds aloft a torch, emblematic of the light of civilization. The young eagle perched lightly upon her brow is typical of the freedom resulting from the triumph and light."

Some Indianapolis residents remember "Miss Indiana" lying on her side apparently abandoned for many months, between the old Journal Building and the Water Company offices. She arrived in town in May, 1893. She originally had great wings on her back, but it was felt that they spoiled the beauty of the design and were removed. At last "Victory" was hoisted into place. What a task that must have been! Inside the statue is a large T structure of eighteen-inch beams fastened together with heavy bolts.

There is a story that on the day that Victory was put in her permanent position atop the Monument, she had a finger knocked off. One of the workmen found it and took it home in his pocket. It is said that he cut the finger into rings which he sold. The statue was unveiled during the G. A. R. encampment on September 7, 1893. The arrangements for this affair were made by Col. Eli Lilly, chairman of the Citizens' Executive Committee of the 27th National Encampment of the G. A. R.

By an act of March 6, 1895, the Board of Commissioners was abolished and a new Board of Regents was established. The new board consisted of Gen. Fred Knefler of Indianapolis, who became the president, Gen. Lew Wallace of Crawfordsville, and Maj. Gustavus V. Menzies of Mount Vernon. General Wallace resigned after the first meeting in May and was replaced by Gen. Jasper Packard of New Albany.

By this time the main structure of the monument was pretty well completed. The candelabra, the statuary, the Army astragal, and the large relief groups representing "War" and "Peace" were not yet completed. The Army astragal was received from Germany and placed in position during the fall of 1895. The Monument commissioners had advertised for competitive sculptural designs for the War and Peace groups in October, 1891, all entries to be in by the following Septem-

ber. Fourteen models were received, but two were broken in transit. A board of art experts, consisting of Augustus St. Gaudens, Daniel C. French, and Charles B. Atwood were chosen to pass judgment upon the remaining twelve models. E. Hundrieser of Berlin received first prize for his model representing "War," and Adrien Gaudes of Paris first prize for the "Peace" model. The commissioners hesitated to place the execution of these models in the hands of these men as they wanted to be certain that the results would be truly American in spirit. The matter remained undecided until the spring of 1894 when a contract was drawn up with Frederick MacMonnies, Brooklyn sculptor, for the execution of the two groups at a cost of \$50,000 for each one, the work to be completed in four years. A year later, before the contract was finally approved, MacMonnies withdrew. It was at this point that the board of regents took over and decided to return to the original idea of these groups as conceived by Bruno Schmitz, using stone instead of bronze. Mr. Schmitz arrived in Indianapolis in 1896 bringing models of the groups. After some discussion and modification a contract was entered into with Schmitz calling for the completion of the two groups on or before August 1, 1898, for the sum of \$60,000. In 1897 Schmitz brought from Germany a very distinguished sculptor, Rudolf Schwarz, a man who was responsible for many noted monuments in Europe such as one of Emperor William I and also the monuments on the Kyffhauser Mountain (Barbarossa's Cave).⁴ Mr. Schwarz brought as his assistant Heinrich Zoderer.

It was Schwarz who carried out the designs for the tremendous statuary groups, "War" and "Peace." "Peace" represents "the homecoming of the victorious troops, the happy reunion of families, and the peaceful emblems of labor. In the

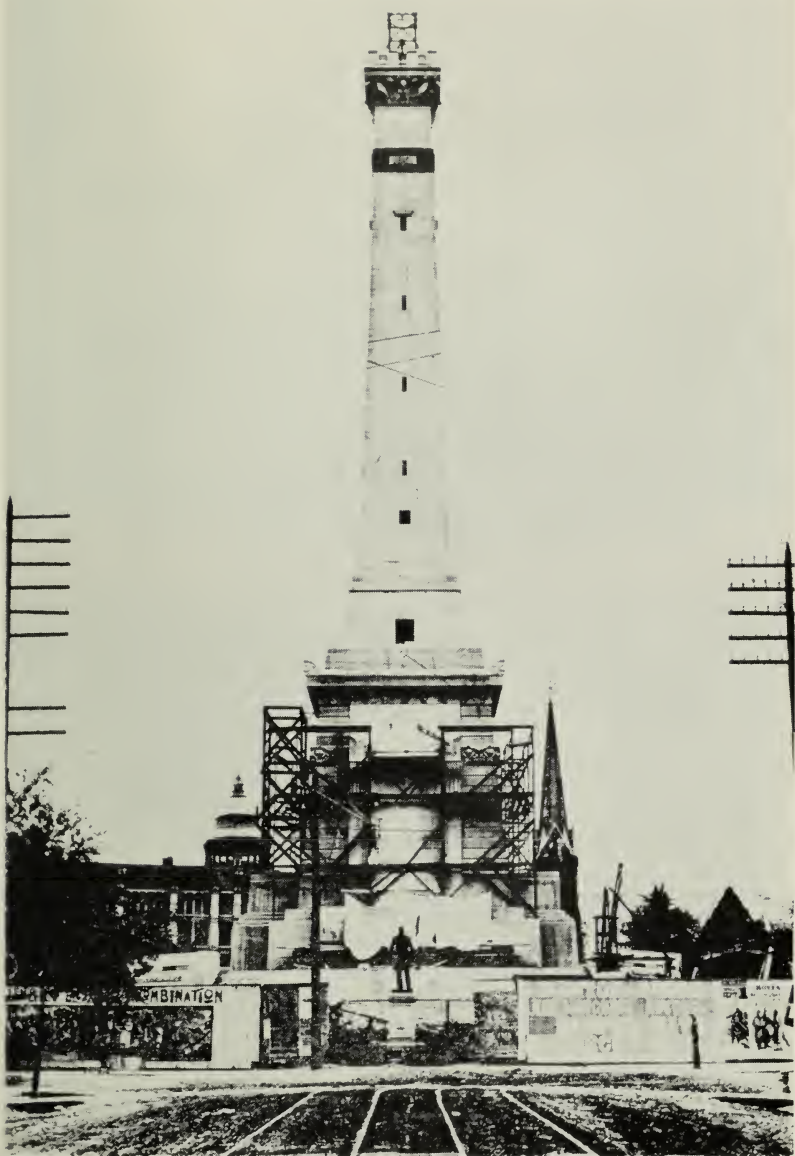
⁴ Schwarz, a man of great talent, executed many outstanding monuments and statues in our country. In no way a businessman, he always underestimated the monetary value of his work. Sponsored by his kind friends, Hermann Lieber and Theodore Stempfel, he was urged by them to have a more realistic attitude. In spite of his great ability, he died disillusioned and in poverty.

center Liberty upholds the flag while at her feet the freed slave lifts up his broken chains. The angel of Peace, hovering over the scene holds aloft the wreath of Victory and the olive branch of peace." "War" is represented by "a battle scene showing cavalry and charging infantry and artillery. In the center the fierce goddess of war urges on the charge while Columbia in the background upholds the stars and stripes." These groups are not only works of art, but represent our country's struggle for the Union and the peace and prosperity which followed the struggle. It took more than a year to complete them.

The story goes that when the finished work was displayed to the board they were greatly pleased except for one thing. All the figures were bearded. In Civil War days, the regents said, the young soldiers were smooth shaven. These soldiers were much too German. So Schwarz patiently went to work with his chisel and shaved all the faces. This time the work was pronounced good.

Four epochs in the history of Indiana are commemorated by bronze statues of men who were leaders in each period. The erection of these statues was first suggested by William H. English in an address which he gave before a meeting of the Indiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. His suggestion was that the four most prominent episodes in Indiana military history be commemorated by statues of representative men. He suggested Harrison, Clark, and Morton, and recommended that the one representing Indiana in the Mexican War be named by the legislature or Monument commissioners. The G. A. R. at their meeting in April, 1892, adopted a resolution urging his plan upon the General Assembly. These statues occupy positions in the four sections around the monument between the converging points of the street intersections, points which are northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest. Three were designed by John H. Mahoney of Indianapolis.⁵

⁵ Mahoney was the sculptor for other monuments, among the most noted two large figures on the Pilgrims' Monument at Plymouth, Massachusetts.



Bass photo

MONUMENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION, showing Governor Morton statue, billboards, and streetcar tracks.

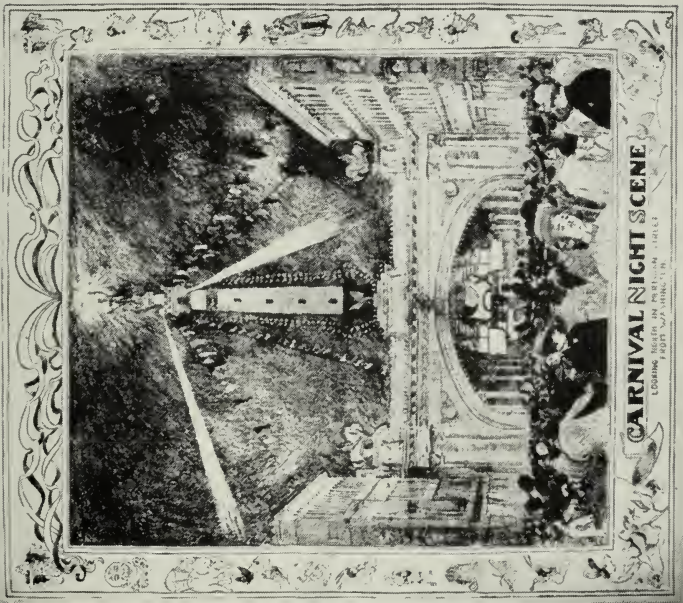


FIRST SECTION OF ENGLISH HOTEL AND OPERA HOUSE
WITH PLYMOUTH CHURCH. 1889.

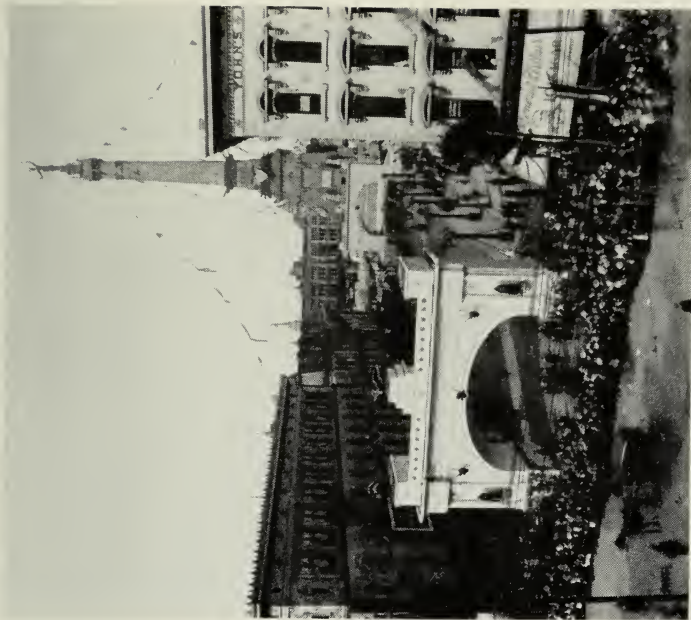


NORTHEAST SECTION, showing Circle Hall, William E. English home
(formerly home of William S. Hubbard) and English Hotel and Opera
House after hotel was extended to the alley.

THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS



Indianapolis Star and News photo



Bass photo
STREET FAIR, October 11-19, 1900. Arches on Meridian
Street at Washington Street and at the Circle.



Bass photo

TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON CIRCLE, 1908



Bass photo

VICTORY ARCH across Meridian Street at south entrance to Circle
at end of World War I.

George Rogers Clark, representing the Revolution, stands as the courageous commander of his little band of soldiers at the capture of Fort Sackville.

William Henry Harrison represents the Battle of Tippecanoe and the War of 1812. There is a story that William Hoeltke, a German grocer on East Washington Street, served as a model for Harrison. The statue was acceptable to the board, but Mahoney was not satisfied. His wife suggested a cloak, which Mahoney added, thus giving the statue the final touch to make it one of distinction.

Governor James Whitcomb's statue represents the war with Mexico, since it was during his administration that the war took place.

Governor Oliver P. Morton represents the Civil War because of his inestimable service to his state and people during that conflict. The Morton statue is the one by Franklin Simmons mentioned above.

Connecting these statues were heavy chain cables, with naval cannon at several points. These cannon were given by the Federal navy yard at Boston, Massachusetts, and Brooklyn, New York. They were replaced as recently as 1929 when new chain fences with posts in the form of cannon were placed around the grass quadrants.

At the corners of the Monument are four statues, also designed and executed by Rudolf Schwarz, which represent the Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, and Navy. Schwarz was also the sculptor of the two statuary groups known as "The Return Home" and "The Dying Soldier."

The structure of the monument is so nearly fireproof that it does not require insurance. Every possible care was taken to build it of the strongest materials and with the utmost skill to the end that it might endure for centuries. Its material, Indiana limestone, has been proved to harden by exposure.

On four stone pedestals on the north and south steps were placed four large bronze candelabra, each forty feet high. Smaller ones were placed above the drinking fountains around the monument, each fitted into bronze buffalo heads. A con-

tract was signed with Bruno Schmitz for their erection. Schulte, a German who was in charge of the work, spoke very little English. Many of the workmen, too, had great difficulty in following instructions. Frank Langsenkamp, who did many of the castings, came to the rescue. With his help and knowledge of German, the candelabra were easily assembled.

The model for the motto "To Indiana's Silent Victors" was furnished by Frank Fertig.

The Globe Iron Works of Chicago and Hetherington and Berner of Indianapolis were responsible for the construction of the iron turret and the inside iron stairway.

The final decision regarding the building of an elevator was delayed. In spite of the competition held and proposals submitted, the president of the board decided to delay action "until electric machines are so improved as to render satisfactory service." An elevator was finally installed, and after trial runs, began carrying the public to the top on April 4, 1894.

"The Monument," called officially the Indiana State Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, was formally dedicated with impressive ceremonies on May 15, 1902.⁶ It was a thrilling day for Indianapolis. The celebration began at eight o'clock in the morning with a big parade of flags. Survivors of Indiana regiments of the Mexican, Civil, and Spanish-American wars marched under their colors. People poured in from all parts of the state, and there were present some persons of national fame.

At ten o'clock the program began. Gen. Lew Wallace was master of ceremonies. After a prayer by Gen. David R. Lucas of Indianapolis, past chaplain-in-chief of the G. A. R., speeches were made by Governor Winfield T. Durbin, General Wallace, Maj. Gustavus V. Menzies on behalf of the board, and Commander Benjamin Starr of Richmond, department

⁶ The executive committee for the dedication consisted of Governor Winfield T. Durbin, chairman, Henry C. Adams, vice-chairman, A. O. Marsh, John J. Appel, William P. Herron, William E. English, S. P. Gillett, and H. A. Root. The official badge for the occasion bore in relief the Monument with the State Capitol and the English Hotel behind it.

commander of the G. A. R. The main address was given by Gen. John W. Foster, then U. S. minister to China and earlier Secretary of State under President Benjamin Harrison. (He was the grandfather of John Foster Dulles.) General Foster's speech sounded a note of warning which is fitting even today: "Every country may carry within itself the seed of its own dissolution."

A chorus of two hundred male voices sang. James Whitcomb Riley read a poem written for the ceremony called "The Soldier." John Philip Sousa composed a march for the occasion called "The Messiah of the Nations." The exercises closed with a benediction by the department chaplain of the G. A. R., Isaac P. Watts of Winchester.

In the afternoon there was another big parade which was reviewed on the north side of the Monument by Gen. James Carnahan. Vesper services were held at the Monument at 5:30. The veterans were addressed by Gen. Eli Torrance, commander-in-chief of the G. A. R. Christ Church chimes pealed out "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "Soldier, Rest, Thy Warfare's O'er." Christ Church choir sang "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." It is said that there was hardly a dry eye in the crowd.

In the evening there were patriotic meetings at Tomlinson Hall and English's Opera House. These were enlivened by music from several boys' bands. Fireworks ended the day's festivities.

The Monument stands in the center of our Circle today looking just as it did in May, 1902, with a few exceptions. The outlook at the top has been glassed in. A museum in the basement containing war relics, pictures of battles, and rolls of honor was opened in 1918 with Col. Oran Perry in charge. The lights and shadows so much admired when the Monument was new, have given way to flood lighting. The movement for new lighting was started in 1924 by Carl Lieber who proposed a change because of the inadequacy of the candelabra. He said that they were not in the original plans of Bruno Schmitz, the artist; that Schmitz had planned a lighting scheme

of bronze posts encircling the outer rim of the Circle, across the street. However, the commissioners had not approved, saying that they would not be sufficiently illuminating, and Schmitz was forced to add the light standards.

After Lieber's proposal, Col. Oran Perry started the effort to raise \$20,000 for new lighting. After four years of effort, flood lights were finally set in the bowls of the candelabra. The monument at night is no longer in darkness. The summer of 1956 brought one other innovation. Besides flower gardens in the spaces where there had been only grass, there are flowers blooming in all the fountains. It is an attractive and colorful addition.

THE CIRCLE FROM THE SEVENTIES

Northeast Section

WHILE THE CENTER of the Circle was changing, there was also a transformation in the buildings surrounding it. At the northeast corner Christ Church remains, one of the few bridges between the old and the new. This church is the town's pride and joy. Passers-by linger to admire it and listen to the music of its chimes. In 1876 Bishop Talbot reported in the *Diocesan Journal* the addition of a chapel and Sunday school room to the original structure. Although the adjoining rectory and some of the trees are now gone, this part of the Circle looks very much as it did in the seventies.

But its neighbors have changed or are gone. Where the handsome Morrison home stood one now finds the impressive facade of the Columbia Club. The club had its beginning when Benjamin Harrison was running for President in 1888 and decided to wage his campaign from his home on North Delaware Street. A conference with some of his old friends including Benjamin Walcott, Charles Martindale, Henry Fraser, and James Wright, resulted in the formation of a "marching club" of one hundred and fifty men, most of them under thirty years of age and leaders of Indianapolis. They were to serve as a welcoming committee for visiting dignitaries and to aid and support the campaign in every way possible. They adopted a uniform consisting of blue flannel coat and trousers, white vest, and pearl-gray derby, and each carried a cane. Each planned to wear his uniform when he escorted his President to Washington—a dream which came true.

This group was formally organized as the Columbia Club on August 17, 1888. Harry New is given credit for suggesting the name. Edward Daniels was first president, Henry S. Fraser, secretary, Otto Gresham, treasurer, and Col. Oran S. Perry, marshal. After the group had seen its candidate suc-

cessfully elected, it did not disband, but took out incorporation papers on February 13, 1889.

In need of headquarters, the club bought the William H. Morrison home from Michael Spades, an influential merchant who had recently moved there. Although the members realized that the house would be too small for their purpose, it was on the location that they wanted. It might be noted here that this was the first residence in Indianapolis to be lighted exclusively by incandescent lights, and that the first central station for lighting and heating was in its barn. In 1892 the club purchased thirty feet of ground east of the club, also property of Mr. Spades.

In 1900 the Columbia Club opened its new building on the site of the old Morrison home. It was dedicated at a New Year's eve banquet on December 31, 1900, after a full week's festivities. Among the many distinguished men who took part in the ceremony were ex-President Benjamin Harrison, James Whitcomb Riley, Charles Warren Fairbanks, Albert J. Beveridge, several generals of the Civil War—Lew Wallace, George F. McGinnis, Robert S. Foster, Fred Knefler, Alexander McD. Cook, John Coburn—and W. H. H. Miller, Hugh H. Hanna, Admiral George Brown, John L. Griffiths, Dr. Franklin W. Hays, chairman of the club's building committee, John B. Cockrum, president of the club, Col. Daniel Ransdell, James Knox Taylor, and Congressman James A. Hemenway. Riley read a poem at the dedication ceremony which had been published some years before in the *Journal* at the time well-known Indiana poets were asked to contribute poems to the newspapers to foster interest and encourage donations for the building of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument. Its title was "A Monument for Soldiers."

Many newspaper columns were devoted to the dedication banquet, the New Year's open house the following day, and the great ball on January 3. It is doubtful if any club in the country ever had a more regal or pretentious opening.

By the early 1920's the club had outgrown this building, and the beautiful ten-story building which replaced it was dedi-

cated in October, 1925. Great plans had been made for the dedication and many prominent guests had been invited, including Vice-President Charles G. Dawes, but due to the death of Senator Samuel Ralston, a former governor of Indiana, the plans were altered. At a dedication dinner the club president, Arthur Bradshaw, presided, and Senator James E. Watson made the principal address. After the dinner about a thousand guests enjoyed dancing, the party being the forerunner of scores of events of the kind held since then.

The Columbia Club has entertained many famous visitors. During the presidential campaign of 1920, when Warren G. Harding was the Republican candidate, guests at the club included the candidate himself, Will H. Hays, Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, Governor Frank Lowden of Illinois, and Senator Hiram Johnson of California. Another distinguished guest was Charles Evans Hughes, who laid the cornerstone for the new building in October, 1924.

Presidents who have been entertained there are Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Herbert Hoover, and Dwight David Eisenhower. Col. Charles Lindbergh, Prince William of Sweden, Amelia Earhart, Gen. John J. Pershing, and Edna St. Vincent Millay are only a few of the other famous people to whom the club has played host at dinner or lunch. Queen Marie of Roumania with Princess Ileana and Prince Nicholas made the club their headquarters and were the guests of honor at an elaborate banquet during their famous visit here in 1926.

Next door to the Columbia Club are located the offices of the Indianapolis Water Company. The property which was given in 1870 by William H. Morrison to the Episcopal Diocese for the erection of a Bishop's residence was occupied by Bishop Joseph Talbot as his home from the time the house was completed in 1872 until 1881, when he went away "for reasons of health," according to Diocesan journals. Mrs. Talbot died in 1882 and the Bishop the following year.

Bishop David B. Knickerbacker lived in the Bishop's house following Bishop Talbot's death and was a resident there in 1890.

The Indianapolis Water Company bought "the Bishop's house" in 1891, using it until 1908. Then a one-story building was erected in front of it, leaving the old house standing. Inside the house is made up of offices, but the exterior looks just as it did in the seventies and eighties.

On the corner lot, on the north side of Market Street, still standing, is the old five-story Journal Building which was built on the east end of the lot in 1866. Some ten years later Col. Nicholas Ruckle added a section to the west end of the building, bringing it out to the Circle. In 1881 a new newspaper appeared in Indianapolis, the *Times*, which was published from the old Journal Building. It was short-lived, lasting only until 1886.

In the ensuing years the Journal Building has housed many tenants. In the nineties the Indianapolis College of Commerce was there. It was called for awhile the Fitzgerald Building and then for a number of years the American Central Life Building. Since the nineteen thirties it has been called simply the Insurance Building. Many real estate and insurance offices have been housed there.

Southeast Section

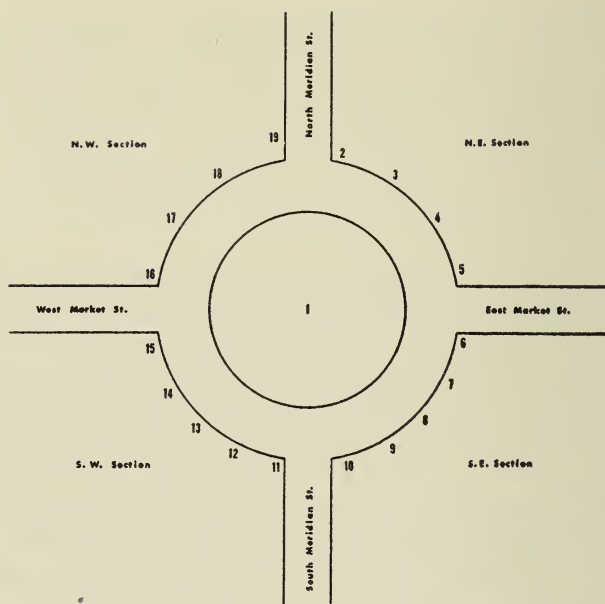
Across Market Street is the site of the little houses of the Lingenfelters and Mayhews. On the corner in 1875, after the Lingenfelter home was torn down, the four-story plus basement brick office building of the Franklin Insurance Company was erected. This company originated in Franklin, Indiana, in 1851. The building was known as the State Savings and Trust Company Building after 1915. It was razed in 1929 to make way for the Circle Tower Building. The statue of Benjamin Franklin which stood in the high niche above the door of the building which bore his name, was sculptured by John Mahoney, the same man who did the statues of Clark, Whitcomb, and Harrison which stand on the Monument plaza. Mahoney was only eighteen years old when he designed the statue of Franklin. It now stands in the yard in front of the

International Typographical Union headquarters, located in the old Van Camp home, at Twenty-eighth and Meridian streets.

On the first floor of the Franklin Building, later the State Savings and Trust Building, and now in the Circle Tower Building, there have been a long succession of shops selling everything from fireworks to candy, and barbers' supplies to jewelry.

Next to the Franklin Building was the Mayhew Block, a small three-story office building. It is listed in the City Directories until 1900, then it becomes the Wood Block. The Circle Tower covers part of this lot. Next to the Tower is the Circle Theatre, built in 1916. To make way for the theater the old Horace F. Wood Transfer Company was torn down, the last vestige of the famous Wood stables. The theater was the dream of Robert Lieber, president of First National Films, and of A. L. Block. The day of the opening the main addresses were given by Almus Ruddell, president of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, and Charles Bookwalter. The theater was beautiful, its decorations and furnishings the best. The owners took great pride in the outstanding programs they presented. The pictures shown were selected "with rigid censorship." In their musical entertainment emphasis was on the classical. There was an orchestra conducted by Max Weil, and Dessa Byrd played the organ. Stage spectacles were elaborate. Indianapolis was proud of the Circle Theatre. It was a particular treat for young girls of the town to be invited by Louise and Clara Lieber to special showings in a private room upstairs behind the stage.

Part of the old Wood stables had been replaced in 1879 by the Circle Park Hotel built by Mrs. Maria Rhodius. Mrs. Rhodius died in 1905, but the hotel continued until about 1909. Then the Kingston Hotel was located there until 1916. The building still stands, the present home of Lyman Brothers, Inc., an art store, and other shops. About 1920 it was known as the Circle Building, but above the door now is the name Baldwin Building, so-called because it was the home of the Baldwin Piano Company for awhile.



CIRCLE PARK, 1890

1. Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument (under construction)
2. Christ Church
3. William H. Morrison's house, purchased from Michael Spades for Columbia Club
4. Bishop David B. Knickerbacker's residence (bought 1891 by Indianapolis Water Co.)
5. Journal Building, erected 1866
6. Franklin Building, erected 1875
7. Mayhew Block
8. Wood Livery Stable
9. Circle Park Hotel
10. Press Building
11. Old Sentinel Building
12. Brunswick Hotel
13. Cottage of Abby Cady, widow of Charles Cady
14. Order of the Iron Hall
15. Ross Block
16. Circle Hall
17. English's Opera House
18. English Hotel
19. English's Hall

After the building on the corner, erected by the Indianapolis Journal Company in 1860, was abandoned for new quarters on the northeast segment of the Circle, it was sold, in 1864, to Joseph M. Tilford, and was called Tilford's Building. It

housed the Indianapolis Printing & Publishing House, J. M. Tilford, proprietor. Located there was also a bathhouse, advertised as offering "warm and cold shower baths at all hours of the day or evening, Sundays excepted,"—"Shaving, Shampooing and Hair Dressing done in the best style at the Bath House and Barber Shop."

In 1873 the building was sold to William J. Davis and James Buchanan. It was finally bought on foreclosure by William H. English in 1878. By this time it had become very much run down and was an offense to the community. A newspaper story at the time it was purchased expresses thanks to English for buying "the old rookery" and disinfecting and renovating it so that "in future it will not be an offense to the community." After being remodeled, it became the home of a variety of tenants. From 1877 to 1879 it housed the publishing firm of Samuel E. Tilford and John Carlon who published the City Directory in 1877. Later the printers Carlon and Hollenbeck were there. The building had many names—The Publishing House, Sun Building, People's Building, and when English remodeled it, it became the Press Building. Among other tenants were the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Chamber of Commerce. In 1924 it was replaced by the Continental Bank Building. In 1935 it became the Electric Building and is the present home of the Indianapolis Power and Light Company.

Southwest Section

The property on the southwest corner, formerly Wesley Chapel, then the Sentinel Building, was owned by Dr. William Parker Johnson and Dr. Horace Allen. The two men, close friends, owned jointly this and another piece of property. When they divided their holdings, Dr. Johnson became the sole owner of the building on the Circle. It was remodeled and named the Waverly Building in 1899. Later it was known as the Western Union Building. On this corner now stands the Guaranty Building, completed in 1923 and held by the Guaranty Building Corporation on lease from the owners, the

heirs of Dr. Johnson, Josephine Sharpe Latham and Mary Boice Hurt.

The parsonage of Wesley Chapel and the Paxton home were torn down in 1875 to make way for the Remy Hotel, built by Allison C. Remy. The hotel was there until 1880 and was followed by the Brunswick Hotel, of which David Nicholson was the proprietor. This hotel continued until the nineties. Later the Morton Hotel was there, leased from Arthur C. Newby. H. P. Wasson & Company acquired this building in 1916. It was occupied by White's Cafeteria until 1927. Since then it has been incorporated into Wasson's department store.

The Cady cottage was used by the Indianapolis Light and Power (later Power and Light) Company for their offices from 1892 until 1897. The company was formed in 1892 with Daniel Marmon as president, John Caven as vice-president, and Charles C. Perry, secretary and treasurer. The cottage was torn down in 1897 and a new building, called the Journal Building, was erected on the spot. This new structure was occupied by the offices of the Light and Power Company and the Indianapolis *Journal*. The latter moved here from the old Journal Building on the northeast corner of Market Street and the Circle. The *Journal* ceased publication in 1904, and the Light and Power Company took over its office space. The building is listed as the Journal Building in the City Directories until 1918 and then became known as the Edison Building. After the Power and Light Company moved to its new quarters on the southeast corner of Meridian Street and the Circle, the building was vacant for a while and then occupied by the Canary Cottage, a restaurant, until fire almost ruined it on July 2, 1953. It has been rebuilt and is occupied by other tenants.

The corner lot on the south side of Market Street, owned at one time in part by Austin Ballard and in part by the widow of David Hunt changed hands several times. The Order of the Iron Hall, a fraternal organization, was located on the southern part of it from 1881 to 1889. Next door was

the Ross Block. In the City Directories the Morrison Building is listed here from 1906 to 1924, housing the real estate office of W. H. Morrison and Morrison Hall. In this building also, with its entrance on Market Street, was the Bates Hotel from 1909 to 1924. This is not to be confused with the famous Bates House which once stood where the Claypool Hotel now is. Also, between 1904 and 1908 the Indianapolis *Star* was published from offices in this building. On this corner now stands the Test Building which has on its cornerstone the date 1924.

Northwest Section

The section where the Penney Building now stands immediately conjures up in the mind of any Indianapolis resident the English Hotel and English's Opera House. Little by little William H. English, who it will be recalled had a handsome home in this section, bought the remainder of the property around this segment of the Circle.

The old Second Presbyterian Church, "Beecher's Church," on the corner of Market Street and the Circle became Circle Hall, and housed the High School for a brief period. Its upper stories were used for the City Hall, then for an art and music school. Various shops and offices occupied its first floor. In 1871 this property was purchased by English. In 1880 he purchased the McKernan property which lay to the north of his own home. These purchases, together with his earlier acquisitions, gave him title to all the frontage along the northwest section of the Circle.

In 1881 English bought the Plymouth Church property. The church left the Circle to occupy its handsome new home on the southeast corner of New York and Meridian streets in 1884. Its minister at this time was the Reverend Oscar C. McCulloch, who continued to serve as pastor until 1891. Old Plymouth Church was known thereafter as Meridian Hall and as English's Hall.

Prominent businessman and Democrat, Congressman and philanthropist, English ran for vice-president in 1880 on the

ticket with General Winfield Scott Hancock. In that year he also turned his energies to building a theater which he intended to be the finest in the West. Many local residents regarded the building of another theater in Indianapolis which already had the Park Theatre and Dickson's Grand Opera House, as a wild scheme, and dubbed it "English's folly." But time proved them poor prophets. The theater was built next to the English home. It was modeled on the plan of the New York Grand Opera House, built in 1868. It opened on September 27, 1880, with a performance of "Hamlet" starring Lawrence Barrett, followed each night for a week by a different Shakespeare play. Built in an elegant period by a man who spared no expense, it was indeed an elaborate structure. Its beautiful carved woodwork and great gas chandeliers were the wonders of the town. It was remodeled by William E., son of William H. English, after the latter's death in 1896.

The theater was an immediate success. During its many years on the Circle most of the great and near great of the theater appeared on English's stage. It presented the best, not only in acting but in music, opera, the ballet, and in lectures. It opened a world of enchantment to several generations of Hoosiers. In its early years one can imagine the lines of carriages with coachmen in livery drawing up to the curb, one by one, to allow the fashionably dressed to alight before the brightly lighted covered entrance. In later years no less gala was the crowd dressed in its best that came in limousines through the heavy traffic to the same entrance. From the balcony over the entrance distinguished visitors to the city received the welcoming cheers and applause of the crowds gathered below.

The first part of the English Hotel was built shortly after the theater, in 1884. It was extended from the theater north to Meridian Street. It, too, was planned to be the most elaborate building of its kind in the West. The large ornate lobby was bright with mirrors and had heavy marble pillars and a broad marble stairway. For years the English family reserved an extensive suite of rooms in it for their own use. The

second part of the hotel extending south to Market Street was built by Will English after his father's death in 1896. At the north end the hotel was extended to the alley, part of the old Plymouth Church being incorporated in it.

The English family intended the hotel and theater to be their memorial. However, Will English specified in his will that if the building should ever be demolished, a new building should be erected to be used for charitable organizations. The property was vested in the English heirs until 1932, when it was deeded to the William E. English Foundation. Finally it was sold to the Equitable Life Assurance Society who in turn erected the large modern building that stands on this segment of the Circle today. It is leased to the J. C. Penney Company. To carry out the provisions of the will, the English Foundation then built the English Foundation Building on North Alabama Street which houses offices of various state and local charitable organizations.

At the time that the hotel and theater were torn down, many of the furnishings were sold. Within its walls were found the wall and stained-glass windows of the old Plymouth Church. These windows are now the property of the successor of Plymouth Church, the First Congregational. Other stained-glass windows were given to Indiana University for its Inter-Faith Chapel. The theater's large asbestos curtain also went to Indiana University. The elevator and a wrought iron grille work were bought by Mrs. John Toy for a garden house. Her daughter, Betsy Toy Hall, bought some of the mirrors. Other grille work was bought by Mrs. Eli Lilly. The marble window at the check room was bought by the J. C. Penney Company and the mahogany counters were bought by the Byrne Jewelry Store and resold to a jeweler in Beech Grove.

All the way across the front of the hotel was a series of medallions in bas relief. At the right of the entrance, on the original part of the hotel, were the likenesses of members of the English family beginning with William H. English's paternal grandparents. The last one was Rosalind English Parsons, William E. English's daughter. At the left were

medallions of certain governors of Indiana. All but one of these latter were sold. Those of Thomas Posey and William Henry Harrison were purchased by Ewing Emison and Judge Curtis Shake of Vincennes for Vincennes University; the one of Morton was sent to Centerville where he had lived before becoming governor. The Thomas A. Hendricks medallion was purchased by William C. Griffith who gave it to the Thomas A. Hendricks School in Shelbyville; the one of Jonathan Jennings by J. I. Holcomb; James Brown Ray by the Brookville Historical Society; David Wallace by the Crawfordsville D. A. R. and Isaac Elston, to be placed on the grounds of the Lew Wallace home. Ratliff Boon's medallion was sent to Boonville; Samuel Bigger's was bought by the Rush County Historical Society; that of James Whitcomb was purchased by Dr. Dewitt Brown of New Augusta; Joseph A. Wright's by A. A. Hargrave for Rockville; Claude Matthews' by Frank Miller to go to Terre Haute. The medallion of Abram Hammond was not purchased. Hammond is spoken of as "the forgotten man" of the group as he came from Vermont. There was also a medallion of George Rogers Clark which was sculptured by Henry W. Saunders who had done the Prince Albert memorial statue in London as well as the sculptured group above the door of the Indiana National Bank in Indianapolis. The Clark medallion was purchased by A. E. Patterson.

The medallion of Helen Orr English was bought by Miss Mary Houk of Indianapolis. Most of the medallions of members of the English family were not sold.

In the twenties there was a movement to establish a planning board to control the type of building that could be constructed on the Circle, and to restrict the style of architecture and height of the buildings. It was suggested that they all be of similar design, none more than ten stories high, with the top three stories of mansard-type design. No skyscrapers would be allowed nor old dilapidated buildings. The plan never materialized. When the modernistic Penney store was built, great was the storm of criticism over the style of its

architecture. Newspapers were full of it, and it was a subject of much heated conversation. Now the people of Indianapolis are becoming used to it, and many have grown to like it. There is no spot on the Circle which so completely brings us from past history to the present.

There may soon be other changes. The Water Company is building new offices and will soon leave the Circle. This will mean that the Bishop's house and Water Company building probably will be sold. There have been stories in the local papers that the adjoining Insurance Building, too, may be sold and demolished. It is interesting to speculate what will take their place in the large lot which will then be vacant.

HISTORIC EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

WHATEVER THE CIRCLE has been called—Governor's Circle, Circle Park, Monument Place, or simply the Circle—it has always been the heart of the city in more than just location. The wide street around the center has always served as a kind of town plaza. The State House and Court House lawns and wooded groves at the village outskirts were in the early days outdoor gathering places for meetings and celebrations, and now the War Memorial Plaza is often so used, but the "Circle" has always been the true town "square" of Indianapolis. While parades are perhaps not as popular or as frequent as they once were, when they are held—be they of the American Legion or Three Thousand Lions (as an Indianapolis *News* headline described a Lions Club convention)—they nearly always pass around the Circle. Public celebrations today are still held there—from those resulting from a basketball victory to those celebrating the end of war.

From the very beginning of the town this was true. It was mentioned earlier that probably the first sermon in Indianapolis was preached in the maple grove in its center. The town's first Fourth of July celebration was on the Circle. Plans for the occasion were outlined in the Indianapolis *Gazette* of June 29, 1822: ". . . the committee have appointed to begin the exercises with the worship of God and a sermon adopted to the occasion, to be followed by reading the declaration of independence, Washington's inaugural address . . . and his farewell address; each of the readings to be accompanied with appropriate prefatory remarks and the whole concluded by prayer. The preceding exercises have been assigned to those whom the committee considered suitable persons and are to commence at 10 o'clock, at the Governor's Circle."

The *Journal* of July 1, 1837, describes the plans for the celebration of that year: "At day break a revelly [*sic*] will be

beat; a merry peal of bells will be rung, and a national salute will be fired." A parade of the Marion Guards was to be held at eight o'clock followed at eleven by a long procession featuring state officials and militia officers and "citizens generally," all enlivened by band music. This procession was to end on the Circle at the Methodist Church (Wesley Chapel) where appropriate exercises were to be held. According to the *Journal* of the 8th all went well, and in the evening there was "an elegant ball at the Governor's Circle" "attended by the 'beauty and fashion' of our city."

The children of the Union Sunday School for many years participated in the Fourth of July activities, with James Blake, known affectionately as "Uncle Jimmy Blake," in charge. The *Journal* of July 8, 1841, describes the event of that year: "The day, as usual, was celebrated by the Sunday Schools of the city. Pursuant to previous arrangements those of the different churches met at an early hour . . . on Circle street and were formed into a procession by Mr. James Blake, marshal of the day; from thence they marched, preceded by the Indianapolis Band, to a beautiful grove belonging to and near the residence of S. Merrill, Esq." Sermons and addresses followed. Another Sunday School Fourth of July celebration was described as a commemorative exercise in the Governor's Mansion in the center of the Circle. After the speechmaking came to an end, "the assembly departed from the mental feast with hearts apparently glowing with patriotism." Sometimes at the end of the ceremonies the children were refreshed with drinks of cold water and at times with crackers before they were dismissed. The day's celebration usually concluded with a barbecue, picnic, or banquet, and toasts appropriate to the occasion, held probably in a grove outside the town.

After the organization of the volunteer fire companies, no public celebrations were complete without a parade of the red-shirted firemen. The Fourth of July was their day. The *Locomotive* described their 1852 celebration: "Each Engine and Horse Carriage was handsomely decorated with flags, mottoes, and evergreens, and the companies were dressed in

their parade uniforms—they made an imposing appearance.” In 1858 there was an unusually elaborate parade with artillery, cavalry, and infantry, brass bands, the fire department, and a long line of carriages filled with distinguished citizens.

Perhaps the most festive Fourth of July of all was the centennial in 1876 which was gaily and noisily celebrated. People jammed the Circle to see old soldiers and children joining in a flag-raising ceremony. A tremendous parade included several bands and many elaborate floats drawn by handsome horses representing, among others, “The Goddess of Liberty,” “The Discovery of America,” “Emancipation,” and “The Landing of the Pilgrims.” Fifteen young ladies represented the thirteen original states, Indiana, and America. One float represented Indians in a forest with a pale-face captive. It was followed by “A line of horsemen in gorgeous trappings, armed with hatchet and scalping knife, their faces systematically daubed,” evidently too systematically for they produced a great deal of merriment in the crowd. The whole police force of forty-two men led the parade. The festivities concluded with speeches at the State House, balloon ascensions, and even a balloon wedding.

Important events, both local and national, were celebrated from the very beginning on the Circle. In 1853 a celebration was held when the city’s streets were first lighted by gas. Again, in 1858, on August 17, there was a formal celebration in honor of the laying of the Atlantic cable with a display of fireworks and an oration by the governor.

It was in 1878 that the Citizens Street Railway Company proposed that the system of street cars should center at the Circle with a waiting room and general office at this point. Although this was not carried out, a short stretch of carline was built, running from South Meridian to the Circle, around the southeast segment and east on Market Street, according to the memory of old-time residents. The tracks were taken out at the request of the Monument commissioners while the Monument was being erected, John P. Frenzel, president of the company, complying with the request in 1892.

One of the most colorful and lavish events ever to take place on the Circle was a carnival which lasted for an entire week in October, 1900. It was a project of the town's businessmen who exerted every energy to make it such an attraction that thousands of people from all over the state would flock to it. Two elaborate archways were built over Meridian Street, one at Washington Street and the other at the Meridian Street entrance to the Circle. Descriptions of the preparations in the newspapers spared no adjectives. Said the *Indianapolis News* of October 8: "Monument Place and the Magic Circle—the center of the festivities is the crowning of the city. . . . Electric lights, bunting, banners and flags have been used in reckless profusion, color and light run riot and the whole is an artistic triumph." The next day's paper said, "With the myriad lights of various colors: the countless flags and bright banners fluttering in the wind and the throng of spectators, it was indeed a magic circle . . . a veritable scene from Fairyland dazzling and enchanting in beauty and splendor. There were searchlights of red and white from the balcony, and water lilies floating in the pools below the cascades." "There are 7000 electric lights in the Magic Circle of different colors." There were carnival booths erected around the outer rim of the Circle.

The Indianapolis Water Company, which at the time was building a new pumping station, placed a large section of sixty-inch pipe weighing 10,000 pounds on the lawn in front of their building, marked with a placard inviting visitors to "walk through."

The week began with a ceremony commemorating the "Coming of Tecumseh." Just why this chief who had been such a bitter enemy of the white man was so honored is not clear. After a welcoming ceremony, Tecumseh was escorted by braves to receive the key to the city, followed by a lavish parade commanded by Gen. James R. Carnahan. There were elaborate parades every day—a floral parade, a "grotesque" parade, a merchants' and manufacturers' parade, and an allegorical parade. There was a kind of midway on New Jersey

Street, but a counterattraction to the events staged on the midway was Galarno, a sailor climber who climbed Miss Indiana's arm in one of the free entertainment offerings of the fair.

Among the most prominent men who helped plan the festivities were D. M. Parry and Albert Lieber. At the end of the carnival the consensus of opinion was that it was a great success in every way, but that in the enthusiasm of festival spirit there had been so many parades that they had cut down the hours when the participants and spectators might have been buying, and so had reduced the income derived from the carnival. Hope was expressed that Indianapolis might have another such gala affair.

In the summer of 1905 the Indianapolis Turnverein staged a five-day celebration as part of the twenty-ninth National Gymnastic Festival. The committee was determined to make it an outstanding success. The opening was planned in the heart of the city, on the steps of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument. Massed flags and beautiful flowers created a colorful setting. Richard Lieber, who was chairman of decorations, conceived the idea of giving the official ceremony the proper background by placing at the approaches to the Monument, at the four street intersections, heroic athletic statues—a shot putter, a sprinter, a weight lifter, and a hurdler. Rudolf Schwarz modeled and erected the four statues for a ridiculously low price. He kept the festival committee in nervous tension, however, because the hurdler which was to be at Ohio and Meridian streets was still missing on the morning of the parade. However, half an hour before the procession started, the hurdler was placed in position. After the festival Mr. Lieber sold the statue of the shot putter to the city park commissioners to be placed in Garfield Park, at a price the festival committee had paid for all four statues, and turned the proceeds over to Rudolf Schwarz.

The festival was a distinct success in every way. Teams of Turners came from all over America and for the first time a team came from Germany to participate. The elaborately

staged parade had many historical floats also designed and constructed by Schwarz. Never before had there been such a pageant in the city. One float representing "The Republic" featured the Goddess of Liberty. In front of her, perched atop the Federal shield, was a great eagle with an eight-foot wing spread. The daytime parade was followed in the evening by a torchlight procession which started at the German House on East Michigan Street at New Jersey and ended at the Circle. The *News* account of the next day said, "The pageant seemed to take on new splendor when Monument Place became its setting." Speeches were made by Hermann Lieber, president of the North American Gymnastic Union and Henry Warrum, city attorney, representing Mayor Holtzman.

The G. A. R., during its many encampments in Indianapolis, held parades and ceremonies on the Circle. Back in '93 they were still coming in great numbers, marching smartly along to a martial tune of the sixties, called "Jaybird." At their last encampment in 1949 there were only a handful of veterans, riding in the parade in open cars but still showing martial spirit. At a ceremony on the south steps of the Monument, the first issue of the G. A. R. commemorative stamp was celebrated.

During the first World War there were many parades, including those to stimulate enthusiasm for Liberty Bond and Victory Bond drives. For these the whole town turned out. And when Grandpère Joffre, Marshal of France, and his handsome Blue Devils paraded, the excitement, especially among the young ladies of the town, was terrific. Who does not remember the huge War Chest that stood on the south side of the Circle? After the armistice the returning Rainbow Division received a noisy and elaborate welcome, with bands, pretty girls, flags, and flowers and a great victory arch across North Meridian at the south entrance of the Circle. This parade marked the first appearance of the motor apparatus of the Indianapolis Fire Department. On the steps of the Monument a living Red Cross was formed.

The Second World War, too, brought its procession of marching men and happy celebrations when the fighting finally was ended. The V-E and V-J Day celebrations that burst forth at the end of the second World War were spontaneous gatherings with the Circle as the point of gravitation of the crowds. On the night of V-J Day there was a great deluge of rain, but in spite of it, the Circle and all downtown was crowded with flag-waving, cheering people.

One of the most exciting parades was held in August, 1927, when the youthful Charles Lindbergh came to Indianapolis after his solo flight across the Atlantic. Sitting on top of an open car, he was driven around the Circle past wildly applauding crowds, out Meridian Street to Thirty-eighth Street and east to the Fairgrounds for a formal program.

On May 10, 1931, Frank E. Hering, past national president of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and managing editor of the Eagles magazine, spoke at the unveiling of a plaque in the entrance of English's Opera House, which commemorated the appeal that he had made in 1904 to have a day set aside by the nation to honor "Mother." His was the first recorded public appeal. The plaque is now on the second floor of Penney's store on the Circle, where it was rededicated by Senator William E. Jenner in 1951.

There have been Labor Day parades, Circus parades, Shrine parades, and countless others, with the crowds massing on the Circle. One parade that is not a matter of pride was a Ku Klux Klan parade in 1924 in which so many white-hooded and sheeted figures participated that it took more than two hours for the procession to pass a given point.

On many Halloweens the Circle has been roped off for masked revelers. The horn-tooting happy people have been allowed street dancing when the mob was not too dense.

For the last twelve years at Christmas time the Monument has put on gala attire. In 1939 Edward D. Pierre, Indianapolis architect, suggested that lighting and decorating the Monument would add greatly to the community Christmas spirit. The John H. Holliday Jr. Post of the American Legion under-



PANORAMA, ABOUT 1925, *left to right*: American Central Life Building (Insurance Building), Franklin Building
 Wood Block, Circle Theatre, Electric Building, Guaranty Building, White's Cafeteria, and Morton Hotel.

Bass photo



Indianapolis Star and News photo
THE CIRCLE IN SUMMER SHOWING CASCADES



Indianapolis Star and News photo
THE MONUMENT AT CHRISTMAS

took to raise necessary funds. Finally, in 1945, the project was successful, largely through the efforts of Wallace O. Lee and a committee headed by J. I. Holcomb. Every year since then the Christmas decorations on the Monument have been a delight to Indianapolis. The theme has always been "Peace on earth, good will to men." On one side is a large nativity scene, and usually on the other a Santa Claus's workshop with lifesize figures. On the north side is a large wreath and a tremendous flaming candle. On the south steps under a canopy for two weeks before Christmas there is a daily program of carols by groups from schools and churches. In 1956 a community sing was held at the Monument with two thousand choristers opening the music festival. Around the tall lamps that encircle the outer ring of the Monument are huge Christmas trees decorated with large colored balls and many lights. Families make special effort to take the children downtown at night so that they may go around and around the Circle to see the lights and beautiful decorations.

In 1922 Mrs. James Ogden started the first Easter sunrise service, in memory of her son. Every Easter morning large groups of white-robed young singers representing churches of many denominations gather on the south steps of the Monument to sing Easter carols. On the north steps there is always a large cross decorated with lilies. The service forms a picture which is unspeakably lovely. In all the thirty-four years there have only been three when, because of bad weather, it could not be held outdoors and was moved into the Circle Theatre.

In contrast to the beauty of the Christmas and Easter services are the noisy, hectic teen-age celebrations at the time of basketball tournaments. No day lacks its honking, noisy rooters in gaily decorated cars from all over the state which circle the Monument. When Crispus Attucks won the state tournament in 1955, as a special award the victorious team rode atop a fire engine the wrong way around the circle.

Political aspirants usually take a swing around the Circle in their bid for votes. One of the earliest was Henry Clay

who came in October, 1842. He was met by a welcoming throng "at the east end of Washington Street," and the procession moved west on Washington to Tennessee (now Capitol Avenue), then north to Market Street and east around the Circle to a grove on Governor Noble's farm where the speech-making took place. There was a parade three miles long, with fire companies, military companies, and many tradesmen, each carrying a banner. There were bands from every part of the state.

During the presidential campaign in 1956, Vice-president Richard M. Nixon and the Democratic presidential candidate Adlai E. Stevenson both addressed large crowds from the south steps of the Monument. A Republican rally was held on President Dwight D. Eisenhower's birthday, when many birthday cakes lighted with hundreds of candles illuminated the Circle. There have been some objections raised to holding political gatherings on the Circle. If the picturesque meetings are banned, the Circle will miss much of its participation in history and lose some of the color which has made it distinctive.

For all the many events that take place around the Monument, windows of the surrounding buildings are at a premium for onlookers. It is not unusual for occupants of offices to stage parties for their friends on the occasion of parades and meetings.

Monument Circle is indeed the center of our city, and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument is the heart of our Circle, as well as the trademark far and wide of Indianapolis.

As the events described above and many others return vividly to the memory of each reader, may he remind himself why the Monument was built. Erected as a memorial to the heroic soldiers of the Civil War, it has become now a constant reminder of all of those who pioneered and sacrificed through the years for the American way of life, soldiers in an army for freedom, like those whom Riley describes in his poem entitled "Monument for the Soldiers":

A monument for the soldiers!
And what will ye build it of?
Can ye build it of marble, or bronze, or brass
Outlasting the soldiers' love?
Can ye glorify it with legends
As grand as their blood hath writ
From the inmost shrine of this land of thine
To the outermost walls of it?

And the answer came: We would build it
Out of our hopes made sure,
And out of our purest prayers and tears,
And out of our faith secure:

.

A monument for the soldiers!
Built of a people's love,
And blazoned and decked and panoplied
With the hearts ye build it of!
And see that ye build it stately,
In pillar and niche and gate,
And high in pose as the souls of those
It would commemorate!

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